

Israel says North Korea missile test 'dangerous development'

BEIJING (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said in Beijing on Wednesday that North Korea's test-firing of a ballistic missile was a "dangerous development" in light of its close ties with Israeli foes Iran and Syria.

"I think there are two dangers here — one that North Korea has this capability and the other that it has ties and relations with countries like Iran and Syria," Mordechai told reporters.

"There is no doubt that this development and this capability is a dangerous development," Mordechai said after a 90-minute meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Israeli intelligence officials have said North Korea is helping Iran develop ballistic missiles through the transfer of technology.

North Korea on Monday test-fired a newly developed ballistic missile, shooting it over Japanese sovereign territory, Japan's Defence Agency said.

Japanese leaders expressed outrage and pledged to protest the move.

North Korea's shock test-firing of the missile over Japanese islands and into the Pacific Ocean has also drawn expressions of concern from South Korea, the United States and Russia.

Analysts said the firing

represents a new threat by Stalinist Pyongyang, which has never officially ended the Korean war and frequently refers to Japan and the United States as war-mongers.

North Korea is believed to be a major exporter of military hardware, including missiles to some Third World countries, with earnings estimated by one analyst at \$1 billion a year.

The test-firing comes as the United States and North Korea have hit another impasse over an agreement calling on the North to freeze its nuclear weapons development, and as Pyongyang appears to be preparing to elevate de

facto leader Kim Jong-il to the post of president this month.

North Korea and the United States agreed four years ago that Pyongyang would freeze its nuclear programme in exchange for two light-water reactors, to be built by a consortium led by the United States, South Korea and Japan.

The United States also promised to deliver 500,000 tonnes of fuel oil annually as an alternative energy source until the reactors were operating.

But the U.S. Congress has blocked funds for the oil supplies because of reports North Korea supplied missiles to Pakistan.



IRANIAN MILITARY EXERCISES NEAR AFGHANISTAN: Iranian soldiers wave to an helicopter Wednesday near the Afghan border during unprecedented military exercises. Tehran, which has voiced fears of possible security threats from the Taliban rule in the neighbouring country, accused the militia of engaging in drug trafficking to Europe via Iranian territory and is angry over the alleged captivity of 10 Iranian diplomats seized by the militia after its takeover of Mazar-i-Sharif on August 8 (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait's illegal aliens offered amnesty

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait on Wednesday gave illegal aliens until October 15 to leave the oil-rich Gulf Arab state. Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al Sabah said all illegal aliens who leave the country under the amnesty can apply to return to Kuwait legally. "During this period, illegal residents who take the initiative to leave the country by themselves can use any exit port without paying fines or suffering penalties," said a ministry statement sent to Reuters. "An illegal resident who leaves the country during the grace period can come back following legal procedures... provided the judicial rulings are respected," the statement added.

Algiers bomb death toll rises to 25

ALGIERS (AFP) — The death toll in a bomb explosion that ripped through a busy marketplace in Algiers rose to 25 after eight more people died from their injuries. Liherte newspaper Wednesday quoted officials as saying. Security services earlier said 17 people died and 61 others were wounded in Monday's blast. The attack, one of the worst the capital has seen recently, broke a period of relative calm in Algiers and showed that the Armed Islamist Group (GIA) fighting the government has not lost its power to strike at Algeria's main city.

Yemen strike suspended, workers freed

SANAA (AFP) — A strike at Yemen's second largest oilfield was suspended for one month Wednesday and four workers who were arrested for inciting the industrial action have been released, a trade union official said. About 1,300 employees of Yemen Hunt went on strike Tuesday demanding social and medical insurance and compensation for their high-risk work at the oilfield and refinery operated by U.S.-based Hunt Oil Company. "The strike has been suspended and we have given the management one month" to implement an agreement signed Tuesday night, Anwar Mukhdari, a Sanaa-based trade union official told AFP without elaborating. Meanwhile, the four employees who were arrested for inciting the industrial action were released late Tuesday, Mukhdari said.

Rival Kurdish factions exchange PoWs

CAIRO (AP) — Iraq's two main rival Kurdish groups have released more than 200 prisoners of war, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported Wednesday. The prisoners were freed Tuesday, BBC's monitoring service said quoting the Kurdistan Democratic Party's (KDP) radio. It said the KDP freed about 160 fighters while the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) released 44. The release came amid efforts aimed at ending the conflict between the KDP and the PUK, which are wrestling for control of the autonomous Kurdish zone in northern Iraq since 1991.

Morocco airports give Jerusalem fund \$1.1 million

RABAT (R) — Morocco's state-run airport authority (ONDA) has contributed 10.7 million dirhams (\$1.1 million) to a fund in support of the Arab inhabitants of occupied east Jerusalem, the official Moroccan news agency MAP said Wednesday.

"This contribution to Beit Al Mal Al Quds [Jerusalem Fund] is part of Morocco's efforts to support the Palestinian people's struggle. It answers King Hassan's call to show solidarity with the city," MAP quoted Transport Minister Mustafa Mansouri as saying.

The fund was set up last year by the Jerusalem Committee created by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to boost investments and help Palestinians build in the city.

Arabs accuse Israel of adopting a policy of "Judaisation" in occupied East Jerusalem since its occupation in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The committee, which comprises representatives from 16 Muslim countries, has been chaired by King Hassan since 1979, four years after it was formed.

Iran bans book about women's freedoms

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran has banned a book about freedoms granted to women by Islam's Prophet Mohammad, the Tehran Times daily reported Wednesday.

The English-language newspaper said that the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance banned the book by Seyed Mohsen Saeedzadeh because it contained "materials disrespecting the holy prophet of Islam." The author had "attributed obscene affairs to the holy prophet," said the newspaper. It gave no details about the book or describe the specific passages that ran afoul of the authorities.

Offended for similar reasons, Iran issued a religious edict in 1989 ordering Mus-

lims to seek out and kill the author of "The Satanic Verses," Salman Rushdie, an Indian-born British writer.

"The Satanic Verses" had mocked Muhammad's nine wives.

According to Islamic texts, Mohammad performed multiple marriages to strengthen links with other tribes and draw them into the fold of Islam. He believed that women are equal to men in most respects.

Saeedzadeh, author of the book banned in Iran, could face calls for harsher punishment by Islamist hard-liners who may not be satisfied only with the banning of the book.

Saeedzadeh was not immediately available for comment.

Israeli unions to strike Thursday

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Histadrut labour union federation said Wednesday it would call a general strike on Thursday to press for an eight per cent rise in real wages, bringing virtually all the public sector to a halt.

"Right now we are planning to start the strike tomorrow and we don't know when it will end," Histadrut spokeswoman Rachel Turgeman told Reuters.

She said decisions as to whether the strike would be open-ended and which unions would participate would be taken before the strike is officially announced later on Wednesday.

In addition to government

offices, the action would almost certainly include state-owned Bezeq Israel Telecom and Israel Electric Co. health funds, and government-controlled television and radio.

Turgeman said.

The Histadrut spokeswoman said airport workers would probably not strike but stage a slowdown. A spokesman for state-owned El Al Israel Airlines said its employees would continue working.

A ports authority spokesman said it was uncertain whether dockworkers would be joining the strike.

Meanwhile, Israel Radio reported that the country's teachers had reached a com-

promise agreement with the treasury that could end a strike they began two days ago, at the start of the school year.

The radio said the terms awaited Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's approval.

Turgeman said the Histadrut was demanding a real public sector pay increase of eight per cent backdated to 1997. Unions also wanted civil servants hired through employment agencies to be covered by collective labour agreements.

The treasury has offered government employees a 1.25 per cent pay rise for the year.

Turkey urges Greek Cypriots to reconsider confederation

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Greek Cypriot and Greek leaders rejected the idea as a ploy to legitimise the island's partition and gain recognition for the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state.

"Those who don't give the proposal the proper consideration it deserves, will be sorry for losing such an opportunity," said Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Necati Utkan.

Cyprus has been divided into Greek and Turkish sectors since Turkey invaded in 1974 following a short-lived coup by supporters of union with Greece. United Nations efforts to reunite the island have stalled.

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Camel control measures in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait is to adopt measures to control stray camels after a string of accidents caused by the massive humped beasts roaming on to highways.

Errant camels have been behind six recent car accidents in Kuwait that resulted in fatalities and serious injuries, an official from the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources said, quoted by the English-language Arab Times on Wednesday.

The authority "will adopt two measures to organise pasture lands for camels and sheep and allocate special

areas," and there will be stiff fines and even three-month jail sentences for those flouting the law, the official said.

The interior ministry has appealed to camel owners to instruct their herders not let their camels wander on to the emirate's fast-moving highways.

Camels often wander untended near and sometimes on desert roads in Kuwait searching for areas to graze and their heavy frames can wreck a car if they are knocked down at speed.

"Camels and sheep wander all over the roads in northern Kuwait," said one

Kuwaiti who works in the desert region.

"Sometimes the herders tie the camels' legs together to stop them wandering off, but this only means that the camels cross the roads more slowly and often in bigger numbers," he said.

"When sandstorms hit the area and visibility is cut to 5-10 metres, driving can be a dangerous business," he added. Camels have also proved an obstacle for others in Kuwait. In July, U.S. troops stationed in the oil-rich emirate killed 10 camels and injured 10 more when a herd of the animals strayed into their live-firing range.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

Thursday Programmes

15:10 Cartoon — Animated Hero Classics
15:30 Cartoon — The Animal Park
16:00 Doc. — L'Ecole des Fans
16:30 Doc. — Blue Water Dreaming
17:00 NBA
18:15 Sliders
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Science Magazine — L'Esprit De Colombi
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Comedy — Family Matters
20:00 The Great Romances
20:30 Drama — Dr. Quinn the Medicine Woman
21:10 Oprah Winfrey
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film — "Trust Me"
23:59 Comedy — Can't Hurry Love?
00:30 End of T.X.

Friday Programmes

15:10 Cartoon — The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin
15:30 The Borrowers
16:00 Feature film — "Deadline"
18:15 French quiz show — Les Cles de Fort Boyard
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 French Programme — Allo La Terre
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Comedy — The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
20:00 Life on the Digital Edge
20:30 Understanding Beauty
21:10 Babylon-5
22:00 News in English
22:30 Big Sky (Esp. 4)
23:59 End of T.X.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

04:47 Fajr
06:07 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:35 Dhuhur
16:10 'Asr
19:03 Maghreb
20:23 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swefeh Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel.
4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
4622366
Anglican Church Tel.
4624853/4624811
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox
Church Tel. 4771751
Amman International Church
Tel. 5865897
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 5683404
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 5811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la
Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel.
4646138
Church of Presentation, Swefeh
Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church
Tel. 4624757
The English-Language
Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel.
4892679

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology
Normal summer weather
conditions will prevail during
the weekend with temperatures
around average and winds
northwesterly moderate to
active. In Aqaba, winds will be
northerly moderate, and seas
calm.

Amman 19/31
Aqaba 26/37
Deserts 18/35
Jordan Valley 25/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 34, Aqaba 40
Humidity readings: Amman
26 per cent, Aqaba 33 per
cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun 27
Jerash 33
Um Qays 32
Madaba 31
Petra 35
Dead Seas 39

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 4126011
Dr. Khaldoun Asfour 5332600
Dr. Bilal Sayid 4890280
Dr. Tawfik Qab'ain 4630209
Firdous pharmacy 5661912
Al Asena pharmacy 4637055
Nairokh pharmacy 4622672
Al Salam pharmacy 4636730
Yacoub pharmacy 4644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660
Najib pharmacy 5347632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'arneh 250080
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad 985550
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 4621111
Fire Brigade 4617101
Blood Bank 4775121
Highway Police 5343402
Traffic Police 4896390
Public Security Dept. 4630321
Police Complaints 5605800
Price Complaints 5661176
Water & Sewage Complaints 4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111
Telephone Information (directo-

ry assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101
Jordan Television 4773111
Jordan Radio 4774111
Water Authority 5680100
J. Electricity Authority 5815615
Electric Power Co. 4636381
RJ Flight Information 4453200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 4453200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdali 56661317
Husseini Medical Centre Tel. 5856856
Luzmila 4630195
Khalidi Maternity 4642816
Akileh Maternity 46424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman 4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071
Shmeisani Hospital 5669131
University Hospital 5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali 5664164
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 47710103
Al-Bashir 477511126
Army, Marka 489161115
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50
Amal Hospital 5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen
Alia International Airport Tel.
(44)53200 where it should
always be verified.
Information on other flights are
supplied on phone 44 (52700) or
44 (53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:10 Sudan (RJ)
10:05 Beirut (RJ)
10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:20 Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Bombay (RJ)
10:35 New Delhi (RJ)
10:40 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
15:40 Kuwait (add) (RJ)
15:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
18:45 Kuwait (RJ)
19:10 Athens (RJ)
19:20 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
20:40 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)

23:55 Lamaca (RJ)
02:40 Doha (RJ)
02:45 Dhahran (add) (RJ)
03:30 Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

08:55 Dubai (EK)
11:00 Kuwait (KU)
13:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:10 Sharjah (AH)
15:40 Doha (QR)
18:40 Beirut (ME)
19:00 Paris (AF)
20:25 Tel Aviv (LY)
21:00 Cairo (MS)
21:10 London (BA)
23:20 Istanbul (TK)
23:35 Lamaca (CY)
00:05 Moscow (SU)
01:15 Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)
01:35 Bahrain (add) (GF)
04:20 Tunis (TU)
05:20 Antalya (TK)

Royal Wings (RW)

(For Thursday and Friday)
10:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA
and proceeding to Marka Air-
port) (RW)
18:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka
Airport on Thursday and Friday)
(RW)
20:20 Tel Aviv (arriving
at QAIA on Friday only).
22:35 Tel Aviv (arriving at
QAIA on Thursday only) (RW)
23:25 Aqaba (from Marka Air-
port) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:45 Beirut (RJ)

10:00 Kuwait (add) (RJ)
11:55 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:25 Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:45 Kuwait (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)
13:20 Athens (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
20:30 Doha (QR)
20:30 Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)
20:35 Lamaca (RJ)
21:15 Cairo (RJ)
04:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Dhahran (add) (RJ)
22:30 Dubai (RJ)
00:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights

06:15 Istanbul (TK)
07:50 Frankfurt (LH)
08:20 London (BA)
09:55 Dubai (EK)
09:55 Damascus, Dubai (RJ)
12:00 Kuwait (KU)
14:30 Riyadh (SV)
15:00 Abu Dhabi (GF)
16:00 Annabah, Algiers (AH)
16:30 Doha (QR)
20:00 Beirut (ME)
21:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
22:00 Cairo (MS)
02:15 Amsterdam (KL)
02:25 Bahrain (add) (GF)
05:20 Beirut, Tunis (TU)

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09:30 Aqaba (from Marka Air-
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(RW)
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21:50 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Home

Council
night visits
to Petra be
allowed

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The Council of the City of Johannesburg has recommended that night visits to Petra be allowed.

The council's recommendation comes after a long-running dispute between the city and the Petra Development and Tourism Consultants (PDTCT) over the issue.

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Council recommends night visits to Petra be allowed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Petra Regional Council has submitted a recommendation to the Tourism Ministry that visitors to Petra be allowed to visit the site on nights with a full moon to encourage tourists to spend more time in the country.

PRC Director Kamel Mahadin said the council also recommended that tourists who have visited Petra for three consecutive days be allowed to enter the ancient city on the fourth day free of charge.

Non-Jordanians visiting Petra pay JD20 to enter while Jordanians pay only JD1, according to rates set by the Tourism Ministry.

Mahadin said the PRC has asked hotels in the Petra region to offer both Jordanians and non-Jordanians discounts of at least 50 per cent to attract more visitors.

He said the council recommended that Jordan take part in international tourist exhibitions in London, Berlin and Milan to market Jordan's archaeological and tourist sites in general and Petra in particular.

Mahadin noted that tourist groups from Europe visiting the site last year comprised 75 per cent of the total number of groups that made the trip to Petra.

The ancient city also received large numbers of Arab nationals, he said, noting that the increase followed the completion of a number of regional infrastructure projects.

Last week, Tourism Minister Akef Biltaji said Jordan's tourism industry this summer witnessed a surge of Gulf Arab visitors lured by an advertising campaign, and an increase in flats available for rent.

"The surge was so positive that by the end of July there was a 36 per cent increase over last year," Biltaji was quoted as saying by Reuters.

According to Biltaji, 444,000 Gulf Arab tourists visited Jordan in the first seven months of this year, up from 326,000 in the same period last year.



HRH Princess Basma at the launching of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) State of the World Population Report for 1998 (Petra photo)

Princess Basma attends launching of 1998 World Population Report

By Hind-Lara Mangn
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — HRH Princess Basma on Wednesday called on regional and international organisations to interact more with governments to focus their activities on demographic changes as part of efforts to advance social development.

"Jordan's service sector and social security have been put under a great strain as a consequence of an increase in population. This increase has resulted from waves of forced migration to the Kingdom, an increase in fertility and a decreased mortality rate," Princess Basma said at a conference held to launch the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) State of the World Population Report for 1998.

She added that the Kingdom has been working on solving issues related to population growth, such as unemployment, pockets of poverty and an increase in the number of elderly.

Princess Basma noted that countries with limited resources, such as Jordan, face an enormous task in the light of this population explosion.

The Princess expressed hope that the country would continue to boast strong family ties in order to provide the elderly with support and care. "We look at the family based on our own values, culture and Islamic heritage. I hope that the family unit will continue to be strong [and] to receive the necessary care and support."

According to the report, which was released under the theme "New Generations," the world will witness a demographic shift in the coming years toward an "older population."

"By 2050, 97 per cent of the growth of older populations will be in today's developing regions, compared to 77 per cent now." In contrast, in developed countries, the number of people aged over 65 is expected to reach 25 per cent by same year.

The report also projected that in some regions the number of people aged over 85 will more than double. The majority of these will be widows who are often poorer and less educated.

"Older women are more likely than men to be poor, victims of exploitation and illiteracy," said Atef Khalifa, director of the UNFPA Country Support Team for Arab States and Europe.

In the Arab World, he said, only four per cent of the population falls within the 65 and above age bracket. In Jordan, this figure is less than three per cent.

"We expect this proportion to increase to six per cent within the coming 15 years. But due to the extended family structures [in Jordan], the elderly are being taken care of," Khalifa told the Jordan Times. But he added that "social changes,

though, are affecting values, and the elderly have to learn how to live alone and access services."

The conference also highlighted the need to provide additional health and social care for the elderly. The report called for investing in health services and support mechanisms for this age group.

Despite a decrease in population growth over the past 30 years, high fertility rates are causing the world's population to grow by over 80 million people annually, the report said.

"Jordan has one of the highest fertility rates in the world at 4.6 per cent. However, the Kingdom has the highest literacy rate in the Arab World in addition to a very high standard of health services," Khalifa said.

Ugur Tuncer, UNFPA representative to Jordan, remarked that "the utilisation of health facilities in rural areas of the country has not met our expectations... Jordan has an exemplary health infrastructure, but not many people make use of the mother and child centres."

The World Population report warned that the rapid growth of both young and old age groups was challenging the ability of societies to provide education and health care for the young, and social, medical and financial support for the elderly.

Samra Water Treatment Plant, the technicians said. According to the station technicians, the valve burst at around 1:30 a.m. Wednesday and was repaired in "less than an hour."

"After the valve burst, we closed all pipes coming in and going out of the station, and with the help of the Civil Defence Department, the problem was solved by 2:30 a.m.," said one technician.

The Sukhneh sub-station treats 40,000 cubic metres of wastewater coming from Amman and Zarqa every day before it pumps the water to Al

Producers suspend project following new audio/visual regulations

By Mohammad Ben Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab Radio and TV (ART) has decided to suspend the production of a \$500,000 documentary series because the company does not want to submit to Jordan's recently implemented audio/visual regulations.

The regulations, issued in July, stipulate that all audio/visual products must have a licence from the Press and Publications Department (PPD). In order to obtain the licence, the product must pass through the PPD for censorship and the producer must pay a fee ranging from JD1 to JD100, depending on the product. The regulations apply to local as well as imported products.

"After the regulations took effect, the company was forced to halt the dubbing project for Al Marif Channel, because censoring it according to the new regulations would be very expensive," said Radhi Alkhas, director of the ART regional office in Amman.

"The programme is about animal life, it has nothing to do with politics or pornography. I wonder why they want to censor such kinds of products," Alkhas added.

"My company dubs about 80 per cent of the programmes carried by Al Marif, a channel specialised in documentaries, which amounts to about \$1 million in income for us. But the new regulations, requiring us to censor the product twice, first when it comes to the country and then when it is distributed to the rest of the world, would make us lose all chances of gaining anything from our work," Alkhas explained.

He said that around 50 people were working on this project, which will be cancelled if the regulations are not amended.

Other producers are also calling for the government to introduce amendments that would exempt them from the regulations "in the interest of the welfare of Jordan," said one producer.

Their concern is that the new regulations will severely damage Jordan's competitiveness in the audio/visual production market in the region.

Since the Gulf war, Jordan has become a base for companies from all over the world who seek professional Arabic dubbing of their products. The slump in jobs for actors in the Kingdom lured many of them toward work in dubbing.

"There are conflicting views about the regulations. Some think they are good and others think they will harm the industry," said

Information Minister Nasser Judeh at a press briefing Tuesday.

"The government will study the regulations and will decide if they need to be amended or not," Judeh told the Jordan Times.

The regulations, according to Bassem Hijawi, an executive producer for the International Distribution Agency, whose head office is in the UAE, will damage this industry in the Kingdom.

"Producers in the future will relocate from Jordan to Lebanon or Syria," said Hijawi.

Most producers are adamant that this regulation is superfluous.

"We have been working in this field for 20 years, and there has never been one incident where a producer breached a censorship law," said Adnan Awamleh, head of one of Jordan's largest production companies, Arab Telemedia Production.

Awamleh said most of the dubbing done in Jordan is for airing outside the country, and thus would amount to imposing Jordan's censorship laws on foreign parties.

"We are producing for television. In Jordan our only client is Jordan Television which has its own censorship department. So what is the reason for this double censorship?" Hijawi asked.

He added that the time factor is important. "I cannot meet the expectation of many clients if my tapes have to go through some ministerial procedure first. Some programmes need to be in and out on a daily basis," said Hijawi.

Awamleh and Hijawi say producers have stopped bringing in programmes for dubbing. As a result, actors are now feeling the squeeze.

"We are all sitting at home," said actor Jamal Maray. "There is little support for actors from the television and theatre, so we rely on dubbing work to make ends meet. If producers stop working, so do we."

The chairman of the Actors Guild earlier told the Jordan Times "as a union we are against these regulations. If the regulations continue it will mean that Jordan theatrical art will die. No Jordanian, Arab or other producer will want to make any production here. We are also insulted because for over 39 years we have worked and never broken any rules."

Nayef Mawla, a deputy and former PPD director, said he had seen the law while in office, and "I read it very carefully and shelved it. I do not think it is fair to censor those tapes, which are mostly not for Jordanian use anyway."

'Science Week' focuses on solutions for unemployment, educational reform

'Private sector can play vital role in easing unemployment'

By Mohammad Ben Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The private sector can play a vital role in combating the chronic problem of unemployment in the Kingdom, a labour official at the Sixth National Science Week told participants.

"The private sector should create incentives for its employees in order to encourage them to remain with their jobs," said Adel Lutfi from the Labour Ministry.

Employers should provide their labourers with "medical insurance, annual pay increases and saving funds," Lutfi said.

He stressed the importance of coordination between the private and public sectors in combating unemployment, officially put at 15 per cent but estimated by independent institutions to be as high as 27 per cent.

Further, Lutfi proposed that the private sector should also seek to find employment opportunities for their staff abroad, which will create job

opportunities for the unemployed.

Lutfi was commenting on a study prepared by the Royal Scientific Society that recommended that Jordan adopt the unified classification of skilled labourers in the Arab World.

Experts also suggested developing an entire system for testing the qualifications of labourers as well as issuing them licences for the practice of their vocations.

"The system would study market demands and determine the number and kind of licence," said Lutfi.

Around 200 participants representing 90 institutions from the public and the private sector as well as NGOs are taking part in the four-day event.

The recommendations of the conference will be implemented in the upcoming "national employment conference," which is scheduled to take place later this month, according to the head of the National Council for Human Resources, Mounther Masri.

Tawjihi 'not reliable' in indicating students' abilities

By Farouk Abu-Ghazaleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The high school graduation exam, the tawjihi, is not a reliable measure of students' abilities, educationalists said yesterday during the second day of the Sixth National Science Week.

The exam, a nightmare for students and parents alike, is taken by students at the end of 12 years of schooling. This year, out of the 97,000 students who sat for the exam, 47,000 passed and out of these, 25,000 will make it to universities.

The effectiveness of the tawjihi came under heavy scrutiny during yesterday's discussions.

Many participants said the tawjihi is not an accurate and reliable measure of a student's real ability, nor a credible determining factor of entry into institutions of higher learning.

One participant criticised the philosophy behind the educational system represented in the tawjihi, saying that it screens out talented students possessing great potential but low marks.

"There are many students who have low averages but who also possess amazing talents and gifts," said Rohi Sharif, an engineering professor at the University of Jordan.

"Taking this into consideration is very important, especially if we wish to turn out a creative generation that is not brought up on rote learning."

Participants also discussed ways of improving the compatibility between higher education and the demands of the labour market.

Breaking away from traditional seminars and workshops in which long papers and speeches take up most of discussion time, yesterday's "Educational System" sessions, one of three main areas highlighted in the four-day Strategy for Developing Human Resources Conference, included round-table discussions and lively interaction between over 30 educationalists.

Around 200 participants, representing 90 institutions from the public and private sectors as well as NGOs and representatives of regional and international organisations, are taking part in the conference.

The event was organised by the Higher Council of Science and Technology, the Royal Scientific Society, the National Centre for Human Resource Development and the Armed Forces.

what's going on

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER 98 FESTIVAL

"Summer 98" cultural activities at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, to last until Sept. 30, include:

* Film entitled "Arshile Gorky (1904-1948)" on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* 50 years of graphic art from Lebanon and works by Jordanian artist Sahel Hiari at the Main House.

* Works by Iraqi artist Samer Usama and by Jordanian artist Said Haddadin at the Blue House.

* Installation works by Jordanian artist Samia Zaru at the Byzantine Church.

* Exhibition of photographs "Memory of a Place" by Jordanian artist Hussein Da'seh at the Museum.

CONCERTS

* Concert by the National Band of Circassian Folklore at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (daily until Sept. 4).

* Concert by the Malaysian Kuala Lumpur Folkloric Dance Band at the Royal Cultural Centre on Saturday Sept. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 30.

* Exhibition of wrought iron furniture by Jordanian artist Salim Al Bandak at Al Baidar Hall, Kan Zaman village (Tel. 5862531), until Sept. 17.

'Small water main burst repaired'

SUKHNEH (J.T.) —

Water Authority technicians at the Sukhneh water treatment sub-station, near western Zarqa, swiftly repaired a safety valve on a main sewage pipe after it burst early Wednesday morning because of a capacity overload.

The Sukhneh sub-station treats 40,000 cubic metres of wastewater coming from Amman and Zarqa every day before it pumps the water to Al

Annual UNDP development report to be launched next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — The quality of life in over 170 countries will come under scrutiny again this year when the United Nations Development Programme launches the 1998 Human Development Report on Sept. 9 in The Hague, New York and nearly 100 other cities around the world, including Amman, a UNDP statement said.

Published annually by the UNDP and an international team of experts, the Human Development Report ranks developing and industrialised countries according to the Human Development Index (HDI), which is based on three socio-economic indicators — life expectancy, adult literacy and per capita income. The HDI value ranges from a minimum of 0 to a maximum of 1, reflecting how close a country is to achieving the highest possible human development.

Last year, Jordan ranked 84 out of 174 countries with an HDI value of 0.730. Canada ranked first with an HDI value of 0.960, followed by France, Norway and the United States. Among the Arab states, Bahrain ranked highest at 43, with an HDI value of 0.870, the statement continued.

Since it was first published in 1990, the Human Development Report has underscored the importance of equitable and people-centred development, while criticising economic growth which dismisses poor segments of the population. According to the UNDP, 1.3 billion people — more than one-fifth of the world's total population — live on less than \$1 a day. The 1998 report's focus on the

global consumption explosion is expected to draw attention to the continuing exclusion of the poor in the rapid expansion of world trade and investment, the statement added.

Concurrently, the UNDP's country programmes around the world have placed overriding priority in assisting the most vulnerable and low-income groups of society. In Jordan, where an estimated one-third of the population live in poverty, the UNDP said it is supporting the government's large-scale Social Productivity Programme to fight poverty and unemployment. It is also involved in a series of initiatives which provide vocational training and channel grants and microcredit toward income-generating projects to raise the standard of living in poor communities.

New agricultural processing plant opens near Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — Agriculture Ministry Secretary General Hassem Shbouh on Wednesday opened a plant near Madaba for processing agricultural by-products into animal fodder.

In remarks at the inauguration ceremony, Shbouh said the finished products, which can be produced at a very low cost, are supplementary food for animals.

He said the agricultural sector in Jordan suffers because of additional burdens farmers face due to the high cost of animal feed. Jordan imported more than 1 million tonnes of animal

feed last year at the cost of JD209 million, he added, and the bill is expected to rise in the coming years.

Shbouh expressed hope that the plant's products will help reduce the cost of feeding livestock in Jordan.

According to Shbouh, the agricultural sector contributes nearly seven per cent to the gross national product, and the country's livestock wealth comprises about 60 per cent of the total agricultural output.

Awni Tueimeh, head of the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer, said the

increase in livestock recently led to a shortage in animal feed products.

Tueimeh said Jordan imports 500 per cent more animal fodder per year than it used to import annually between 1980 and 1994.

Referring to the new project, Tueimeh said processing agricultural by-products is a non-traditional process and is cost effective because it uses local resources.

Also present at the meeting of the inauguration ceremony were Madaba Governor Nashed Majali and officials from the local agricultural department.

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Yeltsin, Clinton pledge to back continued Russian reform

MOSCOW (AFP) — Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton wrapped up their two-day summit Wednesday agreeing that Russia must stick to the path of reform to reverse its financial crisis and secure full international backing for its troubled economy.

Speaking at a press conference after a two-day Kremlin pow-wow, the two leaders both stressed that Russia's reform process had to be pushed through to a conclusion, despite pressure to relent amid the fierce financial storm lashing the country's currency and financial markets.

But both leaders agreed that Russia will have to take the next steps alone.

Yeltsin admitted that much of the problems in the country were of its own making, while Clinton said that further assistance from Washington and other financial world heavyweights would only be forthcoming upon the completion of reform.

And despite the conclusion of two minor arms control agreements at the summit, the presidents admitted they did not see eye-to-eye on several foreign policy aspects, Yeltsin indirectly criticising his counterpart for resorting to military force to settle international issues.

With calls from parliament for his resignation and an economy buckling under the weight of a mass exodus of investment, Yeltsin has come under pressure to roll back the reform process he

launched seven years ago, and he has admitted that greater state control could be needed to reverse Russia's spectacular recent decline.

But Wednesday he reassured his visitor that he would not turn the clock back: "We must conclude reforms and reap the results of it."

The Kremlin chief admitted: "Of course our problems are mostly our own. We have failed to solve a lot since we started reforms." But he added that Russia must have political backing from Washington in its hour of need. "We need the United States for political support, we ought to know that the United States supports reform in Russia," Yeltsin said.

Clinton for his part said the reform drive was now dependent on the political situation in Russia, where the parliament has blocked Yeltsin's candidate for prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The effort to "restore real growth to the Russian economy depends on President Yeltsin's ability to persuade the Duma to support his formation of a government which will pursue the path of reform," Clinton said.

He said that "if the reform process can be completed, I would be strongly supportive of greater assistance to Russia from America and other big economic powers."

Before fielding questions, the two leaders inked pacts on exchanging information

on anti-missile alert systems and the reduction by 50 tonnes apiece of their stocks of military plutonium.

But they agreed to disagree on some aspects of foreign policy, in which Russia has struck an independent and at times indignant pose in recent months at what it perceives as U.S. attempts to play the role of global gendarme.

"Russia rejects in principle the use of force," Yeltsin said. "There can be no military solutions to today's conflicts. Whether it's Kosovo, the situation over Iraq, Afghanistan or others."

Yeltsin said he was "outraged" by the U.S. decision last month to bomb suspected terrorist sites in Afghanistan and Sudan, and Russia has distanced itself from calls for military intervention in Kosovo from NATO.

But the Russian president stressed at the press conference that the two-day summit had proceeded in a positive atmosphere.

"We remain friends," Yeltsin said. "From the first to the last the atmosphere was friendly and there were no differences of opinion on the bilateral level."

"I would like to say, and I hope Bill will agree with me, the visit went well," the Kremlin chief said.

"Our meeting, and it was the fifteenth one, once again proves that when the presidents of Russia and the U.S. join forces, they can handle any problem," Yeltsin added.



U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) and Russian President Boris Yeltsin applaud as State Secretary Madeleine Albright (background L) and Russian acting Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov exchange documents after a signing ceremony in the Kremlin. The two leaders signed agreements Wednesday on early warning data exchanges about worldwide missile launches and on a reduction of plutonium stocks (Reuters photo)

Russian lawmakers call for compromise candidate for prime minister

MOSCOW (AP) — Communists urged President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday to come up with a new, compromise choice for prime minister, and other lawmakers called on the current candidate to step aside.

Yeltsin, however, has given no sign that he will heed the request, and another showdown is expected Friday when parliament plans to vote for a second time on the position.

The state Duma, the lower house of parliament, overwhelmingly rejected acting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Monday, saying he was incapable of leading the country out of its worst economic crisis since the Soviet era.

"Funerals, killings and catastrophes have become the main content of Russian life," lawmakers said in a draft statement explaining why they rejected Chernomyrdin. "By turning Chernomyrdin down, we voted no confidence in the president and urged him to resign."

The Duma also gave tentative approval to a letter appealing to Chernomyrdin to voluntarily step aside.

"Your voluntary refusal to take the post of prime minister may seriously help to ease tension and help the search for a compromise," the letter said.

But Chernomyrdin gave no indication that he would step aside.

Russian news agencies said he nominated some ministers for his proposed new government in a letter to Yeltsin Tuesday. The names were not immediately available.

Yeltsin insists he won't give up Chernomyrdin as his nom-

inee despite the risk of continued political and economic uncertainty if his strategy fails.

Under the Russian constitution, the president can present his candidate for prime minister three times. If lawmakers reject Yeltsin's choice all three times, the president must dissolve the Duma and call new parliamentary elections within three months.

Yeltsin would then rule by decree, and with an interim government until the new parliament is seated.

Communists and their hard-line allies say that Chernomyrdin's prospects for winning approval are dim, and they have criticised Yeltsin's handling of the crisis.

But ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy indicated Wednesday that his party, which abstained in Monday's vote, would support Chernomyrdin as the candidate best able to pull the economy out of its tailspin.

"It would be easier for him to continue the surgery since he has just come out of the operation room," Zhirinovskiy told reporters, referring to Chernomyrdin's five-year stint as prime minister before his surprise firing in March.

Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party is the third largest in parliament's lower house with 50 members.

Former national security adviser Alexander Lebed said dissolving parliament would be political suicide for Yeltsin.

"Hatred for the present power has taken root in the Russian provinces," said Lebed, who now is governor of the Krasnoyarsk region of Siberia.

"Therefore if the president decided to dissolve the Duma, he will commit political harakari," he told the Interfax news agency.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov called on both houses of parliament to come up with a new candidate for Yeltsin to propose. Zyuganov offered no names, but has previously suggested Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, former Soviet bureaucrat Yuri Maslyukov and several regional governors.

Before he and other top politicians met privately with Clinton, Zyuganov issued another apocalyptic warning about the consequences of not moving swiftly to form a new government.

"The Kremlin is half-dead, the government is paralysed, and we are on the verge of a paralysis of legislative power as well," he told reporters. "A lack of government would inevitably lead to handouts and criminals taking over power in the country."

Yeltsin nominated Chernomyrdin last week, just five months after replacing him with the young Sergei Kiriyenko. Yeltsin dismissed Kiriyenko on Aug. 23.

The Russian media has speculated that maverick Boris Berezovsky, a powerful banker who is well-connected in the Kremlin, helped persuade Yeltsin to dump Kiriyenko when he started to get tough on banks.

Berezovsky told Echo Moscow radio Wednesday that Yeltsin might resign to clear the way for new leadership, but the president has adamantly denied that he will quit before his term expires in the year 2000.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bosnian war crimes suspect arrested in Germany

BONN (R) — German federal prosecutors said Wednesday they had arrested a Bosnian man suspected of committing war crimes during the 1992-95 Bosnian war. The 43-year-old man, identified only as Djurdj K., was arrested in Munich Tuesday on the orders of a magistrate and charged with complicity in genocide. He was also charged with murder, attempted murder and unlawful confinement carried out during the war in the former Yugoslav republic, prosecutors said in a statement. The examining magistrate ordered the suspect to be held in custody. Djurdj K. is suspected of supporting the Serbian policy of ethnic cleansing against Muslims on the two specific occasions of June 25, 1992, and Aug. 14, 1992 in his capacity as a police captain in the Kotor Varos area, prosecutors said. He is believed to have ordered the imprisonment of groups of Muslims as well as ordering and taking part in the shooting of some of them. Prosecutors said the man had a fixed place of residence in Germany. Regional authorities are still carrying out an investigation into his suspected involvement. German courts have taken on several cases from the Bosnian war to ease the burden on the international tribunal in The Hague.

Brunei to return seized religious artefacts

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (AFP) — Brunei's Muslim religious affairs ministry said Wednesday it would return artefacts of Christian and Buddhist origin that had been seized from local goldsmiths, on condition they were not displayed. The Religious Affairs Ministry has confiscated items including crosses and Buddha figures from the shops of goldsmiths who violated a written warning not to prominently display the artefacts in their showcases, an official from the ministry said. "They can have them back by writing to the Ministry of Home Affairs and they will not at the moment be prosecuted," the official said. Brunei is an absolute Islamic monarchy. Eighty-five per cent of Brunei's 300,000 people are Muslim Malays, while the rest are mostly of Chinese and Indian descent. The ministry said it was also keeping a close watch on exhibitions where artefacts of other religious nature may be sold, adding that they were also cracking down on the sale of unauthorised versions of the Holy Koran.

Italian government denies violating accords in probe of cardinal

ROME (AP) — The Italian government Wednesday responded to Vatican complaints about a loan-sharking investigation involving a cardinal, reportedly denying any violation of church-state accords. In a meeting with Italy's ambassador to the Holy See last week, the Vatican's foreign minister criticised investigators for their handling of the probe involving Naples Cardinal Michele Giordano. The Vatican was said to feel that investigators had violated long-standing church-state accords by tapping the cardinal's telephone, searching his office, failing to inform his superiors of the investigation and by making a spectacle of the probe. Italy's ambassador to the Vatican, Alberto Leoncini Bartoli, delivered the government's response Wednesday following a meeting between Premier Romano Prodi and his justice and foreign ministers late Tuesday. No details of the response were released, but Italian news reports said it contained a denial by the government that it had violated church-state accords. The Vatican said in a statement that it was evaluating the response. Prosecutors are investigating whether Giordano gave his brother, who was arrested Aug. 20 in a massive loan-sharking scheme, money for the illegal loans. Giordano, known for his denunciations of usury, has denied wrongdoing. He says he gave blank checks on his personal account to his brother, who was having financial problems.

Red Cross 'will double aid to China'

GENEVA (AFP) — The Red Cross announced Wednesday that it was doubling aid for the victims of China's floods, and appealed for help in raising the money. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said it would be sending medical and food aid to some two million Chinese, double the number originally planned. For that, it called for \$5 million to supply water purification tablets, medicines, food and blankets. More than 60 days of catastrophic flooding across China have left at least 14 million homeless in the northeast and along the Yangtze River basin. The authorities estimate that five million homes have been destroyed and millions more damaged. Typhoid has now broken out in some areas, as well as dysentery, cholera, scabies and conjunctivitis. An earlier Red Cross appeal in July raised six million Swiss francs (\$4 million).

Mir cosmonauts start preparations for trip into damaged module

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian cosmonauts on the Mir space station started preparations Wednesday for a walk into the airless Spektr module, damaged in a collision a year ago, space officials said. Flight commander Sergei Avdeyev and engineer Gennady Padalka are planning to venture into the Spektr on Sept. 15 to repair the engines that keep its solar batteries oriented towards the sun. Mission Control Centre said. The Spektr's solar batteries were damaged in a cargo ship collision in June 1997, which punctured the module and left it without air. The Mir's cosmonauts have since fixed two of the module's four solar panels. But cable connections between the panels and the system that points them to the sun have recently come loose and need to be re-adjusted, according to mission control spokesman Valery Lyudin. Another solar battery on the Spektr is damaged beyond repair, and the fourth is functional but not wired to the rest of the station. The Mir has six other operational solar panels that supply sufficient power. Wednesday, Avdeyev and Padalka were expected to install equipment in the airlock leading to the Spektr. They would also be examining the oxygen and heating units of their spacesuits, mission control said.

Policeman saves toddler from fatal fall

LONDON (R) — A policeman saved the life of a baby boy by breaking the toddler's fall from the third floor of a block of flats, British newspapers reported Wednesday. Dennis Hemmipour ran to catch 21-month-old Keiran Holland as he fell 11 metres from a window in Southampton, southern England. "The weight and speed made him fall through my arms and I heard his head hit the pavement," the Times quoted Hemmipour as saying. "Then he started screaming and his eyes opened. I was so relieved he was still alive. Keiran was taken to hospital where his condition was described as stable."

Viscount Rothermere, last of Britain's press barons, dies at 73

LONDON (AFP) — Vere Harmsworth, Viscount Rothermere, the last old-style press baron in Britain, has died aged 73, his company said in a statement Wednesday. Lord Rothermere, the chairman of a newspaper dynasty that included two leading national newspapers, died overnight in St. Thomas's Hospital, London, after a heart attack.

He was taken to hospital late Tuesday after flying in from France where he lived. He had previously been in good health, according to the company.

His son Jonathan Harmsworth, the present managing director of London's Evening Standard newspaper, was at his bedside when he

died.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he was shocked and saddened to learn of Rothermere's death, describing him as "an extraordinary man".

The press baron was the scion of a newspaper dynasty founded by the inventor of popular journalism in Britain, his great uncle, the first Lord Northcliffe.

Rothermere, proprietor of the Daily Mail, Mail Sunday and the London Evening Standard, filled a dominant position in the journalistic world for more than 30 years.

He was a survivor who prospered while other great publishing families disappeared in Britain's fiercely competitive newspaper market.

It was Rothermere who made Fleet Street history

by deciding to relaunch the Daily Mail as a tabloid after the old broadsheet had been on the verge of extinction.

Eleven years later, in 1982, he launched the weekly Mail Sunday.

Today, as well as three market-leading newspapers, the empire Rothermere leaves behind has the second-largest portfolio of regional papers in Britain and investments ranging from financial publications to exhibitions.

In 1957, Eton-educated Rothermere married Patricia Evelyn Beverley Brooks, with whom he had one son and two daughters.

After she died in 1992, he married Korean-born Maiko Joeong-Shun Lee in 1993.

136 Chinese dissidents demand release of activist

BEIJING (AFP) — A total of 136 dissidents across China have signed an open letter demanding that the government unconditionally free labour activist Zhang Shanguang, a New York-based watchdog reported Wednesday.

The dissidents strongly protested at the continuing detention of the Hunan-based activist even though authorities released eastern dissident Wang Youcai ahead of U.N. human rights commissioner Mary Robinson's visit to China next week.

A copy of the letter was faxed to AFP by Human Rights in China.

Police in the southern city of Huaihua detained Zhang, 45, on July 21 for trying to set up an organisation to defend the rights of laid-off workers, an act they said "threatened state security."

He was formally placed under arrest last Friday. Leading dissidents from 20 provinces and cities

signed the letter, including Lin Xinsu and Ren Wanding. Zhejiang province's Wang Dinghai and Zhu Zhengming and Sichuan-based activist Chen Wei.

Human Rights hailed the protest letter, saying Zhang was already suffering from tuberculosis from a previous spell behind bars. It urged international labour organisations to plead his case.

In a surprise move, police in the eastern city of Hangzhou Sunday released Wang Youcai — the leader of a bold attempt to set up a pro-democracy opposition party — into house arrest.

Authorities had earlier placed him under formal arrest, a sign that he was to be tried for subversion. The dissident said he himself is unsure if charges against him still stand, saying only that police warned him he could be detained again if he again got involved in political

activities.

He was among more than 50 political activists who wrote to Robinson Tuesday urging her to meet dissidents during her Sept. 6-15 trip.

In a separate development, 17 dissidents from eastern Shandong province sent an open letter to President Jiang Zemin and Premier Zhu Rongji urging them to release veteran Qingdao-based dissident Chen Zengxiang.

The bookseller, whose activism dates back in the 1979 Democracy Wall movement, was arrested on May 23 after he returned from a visit to Hong Kong where he met exiled dissident Wang Bingzhang.

Wang slipped into China at the start of the year in a bid to set up the Chinese Democratic Justice Party on the mainland, prompting a harsh backlash by authorities against all his contacts.



Indonesian military returns to riot-hit troubled Aceh province

Indonesian military returns to riot-hit troubled Aceh province

damage to property continued until late Tuesday, Meutia said.

"I don't dare go out of the house with all the looting and vandalism that is going on ... some people are just taking advantage of the situation as it has gone out of control," she said.

Local residents also noted an increase in air traffic, including a jet belonging to the Mobile Oil company which has a huge oil and gas operation in the nearby Arun field.

"The Mobile Oil plane has flown at least twice this morning when it usually flies no more than twice a day," Meutia said.

Tuesday, the unrest also spread to four other sub-

In two of the four districts — Samudra and Peusangan — police spoke of mobs of thousands, mostly school children and youths, ransacking shops there.

One of the dead came from Geudon, the main town of the Samudra sub-district, a human rights activist from the Iskandar Muda Legal Aid Institute has said.

North Korea blasts Japan as missile fears mount

the weapon, but pledged to keep its policy of reconciliation with Communist North Korea alive.

South Korea's military has however staged a joint exercise with fishermen off the east coast, which North Korean submarines have been caught.

Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura told parliament he would ensure North Korea gained no benefit from its missile launch.

"I will respond in a way that the firing will never benefit North Korea, in a way that the country will realise that when it has done something unforgivable internationally it will end up paying a price for such an act."

Japan has already ordered a halt to food and other aid to North Korea and suspended normalisation talks.

It is seeking a meeting with the United States and South Korea, said a government statement. And it is stepping back from talks on a 1994 deal in which Pyongyang froze its nuclear programme for safer energy supplies.

Police raid global Internet child porn club

Police said 11 people were arrested in Britain in dawn swoops across the country. In cooperation with other police forces and Interpol, 32 addresses were raided in the United States, 18 in Germany, 16 in Italy, eight in Norway, and one or two in Finland, Belgium, Austria, France, Sweden and Portugal.

Police officials from the participating states had met over the summer at Interpol headquarters in France to prepare the action.

British police said the majority of those arrested were men but some were women. Some of the children whose images were used in the paedophile club were related to those arrested.

Charges have not yet been filed and will differ from country to country according to their different judicial systems. But charges could range from possession of pornographic material to the more serious offence of sexual abuse of children.

Stewardson said police

had worked with computer experts to recover a number of databases and had then tracked down the suspected members of the "Wonderland" club around the world.

He said it was the biggest ever police assault on paedophile activity on the Internet.

"As far as we are aware this has been done before, but we don't believe on this scale. Any sort of seizures from this type of offence previously were in the region of 10,000 images.

"The databases we have currently in connection with this contain over 100,000 images so it is considerably bigger than anything else," said Stewardson.

Stewardson said British police were particularly concerned with trying to help the children who had been sexually abused and whose pictures had been circulated by the club.

They said they hoped to trace the young victims — girls and boys some of whom appeared to be only about two years old — and

offer them support and counselling.

"With the number involved it will be a very difficult task but it is one that we will need to do. There is a horrendous legacy from this criminality and that is the numbers of abused children around the world," Stewardson said.

The paedophile ring was originally targeted by police in Sussex, southern England, following a tip from the U.S. customs service.

Interpol headquarters in France said British authorities had sought their assistance "when it became clear the arrests of the ring members, in almost constant contact over the Internet, would have to be very precisely co-ordinated".

The Italian news agency ANSA said police swooped on addresses in six cities in Italy — Rome, Naples, Turin, Florence, Bologna and Catanzaro in the southern region of Calabria — and seized an unspecified amount of material.

Yangon sees biggest student protest in years

itary government. We're not afraid of you."

A university official told Reuters school authorities asked the students to leave the campus and began sending them back to their hotels in the late afternoon.

A government spokesman said all the students dispersed and the authorities had not had to intervene.

Universities thought the country have been closed since student protests in 1996, but reopened recently to allow students to take examinations.

On Aug. 24, students at the institute and from Yangon University staged the first open street protests against the government since the 1996 demonstrations.

In those August protests, which were broken up by riot police, the protesters gave out leaflets backing opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy's vow to convene a parliament.

The ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) has warned the UNL through the state press it could be outlawed if it

tried to carry out its vow and that the armed forces would not stand idle if it tried to stir up unrest.

In a statement Wednesday the government said an NLD parliament would amount to setting up a parallel government, "which no government in the world would accept."

It said the Karen National Union, an ethnic rebel group that has fought for decades for greater autonomy for the Karen state, would act as the armed wing of the NLD, endangering the government's reconciliation efforts.

"In this scenario the government of Myanmar will be left with no choice but to take necessary legal action in safeguarding its national security," the statement said.

A government spokesman added: "We can't allow national security to be affected. We are ready to take all necessary action once it is in danger. But it is too early to say what exact measures we will take."

Wednesday morning, foreign diplomats met Suu Kyi

in Yangon to discuss her party's standoff with the government.

A spokesperson for the U.S. embassy called it "a routine meeting" with a legal political party, adding that the aim was "to foster dialogue, national reconciliation and a peaceful transition to democracy."

One diplomat said Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, had shown no sign of willingness to compromise with the military, which has long refused to enter a dialogue with her.

"I'm not optimistic about compromise. She's playing hardball," the diplomat said.

Suu Kyi told supporters last weekend she intends to convene a "People's Parliament" in September.

The diplomat said Suu Kyi, who has staged a series of grieving roadside protests against restrictions on her movements in the last two months, showed no signs of ill-health, despite worries expressed last month by her party.

"Her health is apparently fine. She was bright and chirpy and quite cheerful," the diplomat said.

Cambodia's king Sihanouk proposes talks to end poll crisis

tion hut Ranariddh, whose party won 43 seats and Sam Rainsy, whose party got 15, allege that the CPP won because of fraud and intimidation.

The CPP will not control the necessary two-thirds of seats to form a government alone and Ranariddh, a son of Sihanouk, and Sam Rainsy have threatened to boycott the new assembly, blocking formation of a government, unless their grievances are addressed.

Both the NEC and the Constitutional Council rejected all opposition complaints.

Sihanouk said in a statement he had called the talks to "examine various problems which have occurred and have caused a great political crisis".

Earlier Wednesday Ranariddh said he hoped the king could convince the government to compromise on the opposition demands.

Hun Sen and other top CPP officials are due to travel to Siem Reap for a meeting with Sihanouk Thursday.

"I would like to... appeal

to His Majesty the King... to convince the leadership of the CPP to be reasonable, to compromise and positively respond to the will of the people... and our demands," Ranariddh told a news conference.

But Ranariddh warned that the opposition would not take up their seats in parliament or participate in the formation of a government until four key points were addressed.

Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy said Tuesday they wanted a reconciliation of all used, unused and reserve ballot papers.

They also wanted sufficient recounts to verify the result and fresh votes in areas where there was strong evidence of fraud or where the difference between parties' tallies was very small.

Assembly seats should be allocated under a different version of a formula the NEC used, they said, because the formula was illegally changed before the election to a version that favours the largest party.

"If there's no solution it

will be a very difficult task for Cambodia," Ananiridh said. "But we will have 20 days," he said, referring to the September 14 date when the assembly due to convene.

Huo Sen has said if he cannot form a new government he will continue to govern with his current administration. Political analysts said that would not be constitutional but it might be the only choice Huo Sen has.

Several thousand students joined a sit-down protest outside parliament and the royal palace Wednesday and called for Hun Sen to step down. They also marched to local offices of the European Union (EU), which provided some \$11 million in sectoral support and fielded the largest team of observers for the vote.

The protesters called for the EU to reconsider its assessment of the polls. A U.N.-coordinated team of international observers, including the EU poll-watchers, said just after the election that it was sufficiently free and fair.

[illegible]

Society on the move

Ambassadors big and small

LAST NIGHT the staff of the French embassy got their turn to bid adieu to Ambassador Bernard Bojolei who after four-and-a-half years is leaving Amman. Bojolei will return to his home in France and take several weeks holiday. During that time he expects to receive his new assignment. An active and involved envoy, Bojolei contributed significantly to solidifying Franco-Jordanian relations in nearly every sphere. A certainly memorable moment was the visit of President Jacques Chirac in late October 1996. At the time Chirac's two-day visit to the Kingdom and his address before His Majesty King Hussein and Parliament were hailed by the country. Bojolei is scheduled to leave for France on Monday. His successor, Bernard Emie, is due to arrive in Amman on September 10. A graduate of both l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Paris and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, the 40-year-old Emie began his diplomatic career in 1983. He has served in New Delhi and Washington, was head of the office of Foreign Minister Alain Juppé from 1993 to 1995, and since then has been assistant diplomatic advisor for the Middle East and North Africa to the French presidency. Emie brings with him his family — wife Isabelle and two young daughters.

Keeping up with other French ambassadors we have learned that Bojolei's predecessor in Amman, Denis Bauchard has been nominated as France's ambassador to Canada. Bauchard served in Amman from 1989-1993.

sis" is the theme of the new exhibition at the Jordan National Gallery opening this evening under the patronage of HRH Princess Rahma bint El-Hassan. The two artists featured bring not only varying media of work to the gallery but interesting backgrounds with multicultural roots. Dr. Bashir Makhoul was born in Galilee and educated in fine art and theory in the U.K. He obtained his B.A. at Liverpool Polytechnic, and his Masters and Ph.D. from Manchester Metropolitan University. He was coordinator for the Centre for Art International Research at Liverpool John Moores University and currently is a senior lecturer at Sheffield-Hallam University. Bashir has teamed up with colleague Almar Mitha for the artists' first exhibition in Amman. Mitha, whose parents are from India, was born in Uganda but left during the 1972 upheavals and settled in the U.K. He began his studies at Wolverhampton University, was later awarded a scholarship to complete his higher education at the Ecole de Branc in Angers, France. Returning to London he was awarded a Commonwealth scholarship to study for his masters in fine arts at Baroda University in India. Back again to England Mitha settled in Manchester and has been balancing his creativity between his own art works and curating the works of other artists at various museums and galleries, a trend which he says is now commonplace among artists in England. Both Makhoul and Mitha have held several exhibits of their works. Their art on display until Oct. 1 will include painting, photography, and mixed media.

far with the Scotland based volunteer organisation called Project Trust, but this year a good number of children at some very special schools will get to benefit from one of the PT's new projects. Six 18-year-old high school graduates are taking a year before entering university to volunteer their time as teaching assistants in Jordan. The young team is made up of Helen Tunney and Catriona McKenzie (assigned to the Young Women's Muslims Association School), Jonathan Shorp and Michael Charters (assigned to the School for Modern Education for the mentally challenged), and Matthew Ball and Rakesh Ramechurn (assigned to the Schmeller School). Project Trust director in Jordan Usha Reifsnider said her hope is to introduce a summer programme for young volunteers from the U.K. to team up with young partners from Jordan through the Friends of Children Society to work at community centres in refugee camps. Meanwhile Reifsnider and her husband Matthew, a minister at the Assemblies of God will have their hands full keeping up with the enthusiasm of the six new charges.

Seven-year-old Dania Abdul Jabbar (left), who had plastic surgery for burns to her face and hands and Isra Abdul Wahab (right), 6, who successfully underwent open-heart surgery, returned Monday from the United States as reported earlier this week. This happy picture was made available to JT a day after their arrival at Queen Alia International Airport in transit home to Baghdad. They are escorted by Mohannad Jawid of the International Relief Agency (IRA)



MULTICULTURAL "SYMBIOSIS": "SYMBIO-

YOUNG VOLUNTEERS: You may not be famil-

Jennifer Hamarich

The anniversary of Mother Teresa's death

Mother Teresa's grave secure from tourist hordes

By Abhik Kumar Chanda
Agence France Presse

MOTHER TERESA'S final resting place — a simple grave in her order's spartan headquarters here — has managed to remain a site for pilgrims, rather than gawking tourists, since her death a year ago.

The memorial to the "Saint of the Gutters" attracts around 200 visitors a day, but relatively few are of the camera-wielding, package-tour variety.

For the Missionaries of Charity, their "Beloved Mother Teresa" lives on in spirit in the ground floor hall facing a busy Calcutta street.

The rectangular room is open for visitors morning and evening, except for Thursdays when the nuns are engaged in day-long prayers.

A wooden plaque at the entrance gives the visiting hours under the simple message "Visitors (Mother)" to distinguish it from the main entrance to the headquarters.

Sister Nirmala, Mother Teresa's successor as head of the order, said the grave attracted a steady flow of visitors.

"On some days there are 100, some days there are 200 and on some days there are more," she said. "We do not count. But there is a constant flow."

"They come here to pray and to seek solace," she said, briding at the suggestion that it had become a tourist destination. "It is a place of pilgrimage," she said.

Jayanta Sanyal, tourism secretary of West Bengal state of which Calcutta — Mother Teresa's adopted home for several decades — is capital, said the government was not overtly pushing the grave site as a tourist spot.

"It is a private property and we cannot really publicise it," he said.

"But it is part of a package group of tours conducted by private operators and guides. Some tourist buses stop on the road and people can see the grave from the bus as the windows of the room are very big."

'I come here to see Mother Teresa. She very big in Japan'

"Those who want to go inside, do," Sanyal said there were no plans to promote the grave overseas as "we used to jokingly say that Mother Teresa is one of the biggest tourist draws in Calcutta."

The marble grave is adorned with a crucifix and inscribed with the words: "Love one another as I have loved you" — a message from the Gospel of St. John.

Ashok Banerjee, director of the federal tourist office for northeastern India, said in his view the grave should not be promoted at all.

"The sanity and serenity of the place will be

disturbed. We have seen that overkill on wildlife reserves harms animals, and forests are strewn with garbage and litter."

Banerjee also gave a nod to those critics in Calcutta who accused Mother Teresa of denigrating their city in the eyes of the world.

"We do not want to depict Calcutta as a poor city full of beggars and lepers. We do not want that image," he said.

For Koji Shirasaka, a Japanese student praying at the grave, the argument went unheeded.

"I come here to see Mother Teresa," he said in halting English. "She very big in Japan."

Vignettes and writings on Mother Teresa's life adorn the white-washed sides of the long hall, and the story of her "last journey" is pasted on a wall at the head of her grave.

Written in a homespun style by French-born nun Sister Fabienne, one of her oldest associates, it runs: "Your going to Jesus came to us as a thunderclap."

"All of us were rejoicing to see you day after day amongst us, simply forgetting that Jesus said: 'You do not know the day or the hour.'"

Another inscription starts: "Mother Teresa, you'll never be replaced. She was gifted with rare charisma that cannot be acquired in a lifetime."

That charisma ensures pin-drop silence in the hall where admirers from all faiths pray without a sound.

"There are nuns there throughout the day," said Sunita Kumar, an old co-worker of the order. "But they don't have to patrol... for those who come, it is a place of worship."



Top and below, Mother Teresa's grave in Calcutta. The memorial to the "Saint of the Gutters" attracts around 200 visitors a day. A wooden plaque at the entrance gives the visiting hours under the simple message "Visitors (Mother)" (AFP photo)



The need for speed

By Jean-Claude Elias

IT SEEMS like all that PC users worry about these days is the speed, the performance of their computer. Whether they are shopping around for a new machine or thinking of upgrading an existing one, the main subject of their dreams — the obsession I should say — can be expressed in one single unit: megahertz, the clock rate of the microprocessor (the CPU).

It's as if your only concern when buying a new car would be its top speed. It has become virtually irrelevant these days. It's even old-fashioned. Most modern cars can do between 160 and 200 kilometres per hour, and anyway you don't even care for stringent speed limits are implemented on every highway. Speed used to be an issue in the post WWII era. In the fifties and the sixties. It is not the case anymore. Instead of pure speed you now look for security, reliability and comfort in a car.

Maybe the PC world has not yet reached the age of maturity that cars have. Nevertheless personal computers have evolved enough to make us interested in features and characteristics other than the pure speed of the main CPU. Quality monitors that are gentle on the eyes,

silent cooling fans that keep the environment quiet and removable storage devices that let you make additional security copies of your data files have become as important if not more important than CPU speed. So have accurate and comfortable mice, ergonomic keyboards, power protection and regulation equipment and quality sound cards and speakers. Not to forget adequate software and proper training.

Manufacturers are pushing us to buy faster CPUs. Every three or four months new microprocessors are released. Intel, AMD and Cyrix, the designers and makers of CPUs for personal computers keep users constantly craving for faster chips. But the benefit of moving from say a 266 MHz (megahertz) processor to a 300 MHz is not always obvious. Still we badly want it. It's trendy, it's flashy, it's in.

The industry won't take a break, and contrary to driving speed limits on the road, nobody is ever going to put a speed limit on microprocessors. Maybe it's up to the users of PCs to reach the age of reason and realise that there are many aspects in a computer that are more important than the CPU's clock rate.

chip talk



Jordanian stocks at seven-week low as industrials fall

AMMAN (R) — Jordanian investors dumped shares in industrial blue-chip Arab Potash Wednesday to push the official Amman share index to a seven-week low. Brokers said Arab Potash shares, which fell by the daily limit of five per cent to 4.28 dinars (\$6.0), were still reacting to a slump in the value of their Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs) on international markets after poor half-year results.

Losses in the key mining firm helped drag the official 60-share Amman Financial Index (AFI) down for a fifth consecutive day to end the trading week at 177.18 points — its lowest level since mid-July.

The index of industrial shares lost two per cent. Falling shares beat gains by 24 to seven in the overall market, and brokers said they could see few signs that the losses would be reversed next week.

They said the gloom on the Amman bourse was due to domestic woes — high interest rates and political uncertainty in the Middle East — not the instability in global markets. They pinned this week's fall on a wave of profit-taking by local investors in Arab Bank. Shares in the bank edged up 0.50 dinars to 221.50 dinars on Wednesday but were still well below last week's close of 228.50 dinars.

Arab Gulf's aluminium heavyweights take on European Union bureaucracy

DUBAI (AFP) — The Gulf's aluminium smelters are braced for a diplomatic wrangle with the European Union (EU) over what they say is an uncompensated tax on their exports to the economic bloc.

The EU, which represents a quarter of the world market for aluminium, looks a promising candidate to absorb Dubai's growing output.

"We are becoming too big to place all our product into the Asian market. You just can't keep pouring metal into a limited market," said Malcolm McHale, Dubai's general manager of marketing and sales.

Under Dubai's \$725-million Concor expansion, its output will increase by 135,000 tonnes a year, or 35 per cent. The EU's six per cent tax on aluminium imports is set to become increasingly important to Europe will rise from 15,000 tonnes last year to an estimated 75,000 tonnes in 1998 and up to 150,000 tonnes by 2000.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Something you've been thinking about replacing could be fixed instead. You don't know how, but a friend does. If you need to pay this person, it might be worth the money, but a trade is also possible. It looks like you have something this other person needs, too.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't be dismayed if you run into an obstacle today. Life is full of obstacles, but they're only there to make us stronger. You might as well look at it like that. They're made to be dissolved, climbed over, crawled around or somehow managed. Think of them as building blocks and treat them accordingly.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A foreigner may have just the answer you're looking for — regarding your home or someone you live with, or a different way of looking at the situation there. Let people know what's going on with you. How else can they give you their sage advice?

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) There's no shortage of money out there. All you have to do is find a need and fill it. You're good at that, too. Did you know that Cancer is the sign of the multimillionaire? It's not just because you're good at taking care of other people. It's also because you hold on to what you have.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A partner is giving you a shove in the right direction. This person has more of an analytical mind than you do, and is the one to help you plan your next move. Today, it looks like he or she has some very good advice, and some confrontational but supportive coaching, too. Listen carefully. Take notes, if necessary.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have a greater sense of your own destiny, which is good, but the work is getting more difficult. You may not have time to meet with your friends today, but stay in touch. You need their encouragement and support. That's especially true of an older person who lives far away. That one will help you stay centred. Make the call.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) The dream you had last night could come true. It was probably a nice one, so don't worry if you can't remember it. You might run into a problem early in the day, but don't let that get you down. A surprising romantic development later makes everything else seem insignificant.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) There's a situation to deal with at home. Something may be breaking down, or somebody wants to spend hours in seemingly meaningless conversation. The problem is that both you and the other person are set in your ways. If you can't reach a compromise, a stalemate might have to do.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If education is what you need in order to take the next step, you're in luck. This is an excellent day to start a new study programme. It doesn't matter whether you go to school or pick up a book at the library. The point is that you're willing to take on something that once looked too difficult to tackle.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Looks like you have bills to pay. While you're at it, throw in something just for fun. How about a down payment on a cruise? Even if you have to wait before you can go, start planning now. It's the carrot dangling at the end of the stick that's keeping you motivated. Make it a big, fat, juicy one!

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You need to follow through on something you've already begun. That could be paying off a debt. Looks still like you're negotiating something that will improve the quality of life at home, so don't worry about it. It's a tough decision and there are lots of variables, but you're good at making tough decisions.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) What you're learning now is pretty technical in nature. You might even have to read the manual to find out what's going on. This is not your favourite thing to do, but don't despair. It might go slowly, but the more you can manage to grasp now, the easier your life will be in the future.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

ARABIAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 02/09/1998											
PART	12	MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	QTY.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE
	HIGH	LOW				TRANS.	SHARES	TRADED		PRICE	
								JD			
S	355.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	18.1	.90	30	1550	341830	221.00	221.50	+50+
	2.100	1.620	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.5	4.22	4	2850	4731	1.66	1.66	-
	2.680	1.650	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	31.1	6.56	4	1750	2765	1.58	1.58	-01-
S	6.510	2.610	THE BOSSING BK.	19.5	3.25	27	75214	233018	3.08	3.08	-
	4.000	1.690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.6	0.00	3	3000	1739	1.74	1.74	-
S	3.000	1.350	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	22.9	3.36	2	500	745	1.51	1.49	-02-
	.930	.600	WELFARE DEV. BK.	7.9	0.00	52	169026	113911	.69	.68	-01-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 292.43 ICB: +0.15 122 251802 606730											
S	2.240	1.470	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.7	6.50	28	16076	24226	1.51	1.50	-01-
	1.500	.800	HAZEL. PORTFOLIO	31.1	0.00	4	1750	1366	.60	.78	-02-
	1.120	.680	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.3	0.00	1	100	73	.71	.73	+02+
S	1.590	.720	JORDAN INV. TRAD.	0	0.00	1	100	20	.32	.30	+02+
	7.100	5.460	AD-POSTBOX	22.1	0.00	1	200	1140	6.00	5.70	-30-
	1.480	1.060	KID. EAST HOTELS	9	0.00	3	3611	4006	1.12	1.11	-01-
S	1.600	1.880	ARAB INV. INV. HDQ.	9.6	2.02	2	1200	2376	2.00	1.98	-02-
	1.070	.890	BARAK EDUCATION	20.6	0.00	2	1100	1403	.99	.90	+01+
	1.830	1.060	ORIENTED CO.	4.9	10.00	8	1750	1947	1.12	1.10	-02-
	1.350	.050	UNITED FOR FIDAN. INV.	1.4	5.90	3	1100	1204	1.15	1.09	-06-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 109.41 ICB: -0.38 54 27021 37424											
S	3.900	1.840	JOR. COINVEST. FUND.	13.5	5.67	5	1093	2117	1.94	1.94	-
	4.110	1.600	JOR. PROPERTIES MINES	16.9	0.00	3	850	1360	1.60	1.60	-
	6.500	4.500	ARAB POTASH CO.	21.1	4.67	5	20650	88842	4.50	4.28	-22-
S	11.250	10.050	JOR. PHYSICAL REFINERY	10.3	8.42	7	198	2090	10.58	10.56	-02-
	1.710	1.050	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AC.	67.9	0.00	2	1000	1150	1.18	1.15	-03-
S	6.740	2.400	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	7.3	2.63	22	4614	12772	3.68	2.65	-03-
	5.590	3.120	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	4.8	0.09	8	48400	53280	1.16	1.10	-06-
S	6.250	4.700	DAR ALBAHAR DEV. INV.	6.6	6.24	2	250	1403	5.66	5.61	-05-
	2.980	3.720	ARAB ALUM. IND.	12.6	14.71	1	250	428	1.72	1.70	-02-
S	.670	.400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	13.5	0.00	6	11200	4379	.40	.40	-
	1.100	.670	ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD.	23.8	0.00	1	200	156	.80	.78	-02-
	1.760	.760	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	0	0.00	1	400	172	.43	.43	-
S	.630	.390	NATIONAL TRD.	0	0.00	2	2000	700	.33	.35	+02+
	.690	.300	INTERMED. FINANC. SERV.	0	0.00	1	50	35	.30	.30	-
	1.760	.760	UNIV. COMM. TRD.	0.2	10.00	4	580	440	.61	.60	-01-
S	4.050	2.700	ALADIN CO.	21.6	3.11	1	100	257	2.71	2.57	-14-
S	2.300	.700	HAZEL. CARLE WINE. MAC.	33.3	0.00	3	1450	1028	.73	.71	-
	.730	.380	JOR. SUEZ-CHINA	7.4	0.00	4	711	271	.38	.30	+01+
	.700	.390	KAWTHAR INVEST.	0	0.00	9	3800	1894	.48	.50	-01+
S	1.300	.570	UNIV. COMM. TRD.	8.6	11.11	29	16700	9087	.57	.54	-03-
	3.600	3.200	HAZEL. CHORAZKE	6.6	8.00	4	3278	7722	1.25	1.25	-
	1.040	.600	ARAB FOOD & FIB.	16.8	0.00	2	1400	654	.61	.61	-
S	1.610	1.250	AL-SAY READY MEAT	42.2	0.00	1	1000	1200	1.20	1.20	-
	1.310	.920	INTEL. TOBACCO	6.5	6.27	6	11370	10574	.92	.93	-01+
	.890	.660	JORDAN STEEL	8.8	8.86	6	12135	9866	.80	.79	-01-
	.710	.540	HAZ. ALUMINUM	31.7	0.00	2	400	259	.56	.84	-01-
	.670	.630	KID. EAST COMPLEX	0.6	0.00	3	1450	769	.53	.53	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 61.87 ICB: -2.34 140 143700 207098											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 177.18 ICB: -0.47 316 422712 043261											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 02/09/1998											
	.600	.340	JOR. TRADE FAC.	0	0.00	1	1000	390	.40	.39	-01-
	.600	.340	UNION INV.	0	0.00	11	67950	34655	.51	.51	-
	.620	.240	ARAB FID. INVEST.	0	0.00	4	6000	1500	.25	.25	-
	.560	.780	AL-SAMIRIA	32.6	0.00	2	2000	2800	.56	.56	-
	.260	.100	JOR. INDS. MARCH-TRACO	0	0.00	1	1800	180	.10	.10	-
	.600	.270	ARAB FOOD & MID.	0	0.00	3	3500	980	.27	.28	+01+
	.430	.290	ARAB INV. INV. HDQ.	26.5	0.00	2	1250	288	.23	.23	-
	.580	.770	HAZEL. MTL. RES. HADHOD	20.8	20.75	3	70366	19243	.27	.27	-
S	1.230	.760	READY MIX CONCRETE	7.0	0.00	1	200	146	.76	.73	-03-
	.900	.350	ARAB TRACED	9	0.00	1	3000	1050	.35	.35	-
	.560	.590	MIDWATER PERMS	4	0.00	4	3500	1680	.59	.58	-01-
	3.750	1.100	UNION TRACED ST. 6X	10.9	0.00	1	70366	8233	1.72	1.71	-01-
	.730	.570	RAEI PERM.	8	0.00	2	11000	6380	.58	.58	-
S	.360	.200	INDS. ENG.	0	0.00	1	10000	1900	.20	.19	-01-

Reigning U.S. Open champ Rafter escapes in five-set thriller

NEW YORK (AFP) — Reigning U.S. Open champion Pat Rafter barely averted one of the greatest upsets in tennis history, rallying for a five-set victory over Morocco's Hicham Arazi Tuesday.

The Australian heart-throb, who won three August hardcourt tuneup events, nearly became the first reigning U.S. Open champion to lose in the first round before recovering for a 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1, triumph.

"I was really getting outplayed. He was too good for me," Rafter said. "He played me smart. It took me a while to work him out. Everything he was doing was breaking me down and I wasn't getting enough on my serve."

Rafter lost only two sets in winning his first Grand Slam title at the 1997 Open. He dropped two sets in 59 minutes against Arazi, whose lone ATP title came



Anna Kournikova of Russia, signs autographs after her first round match against Lea Ghirardi of France during the U.S. Open Tennis Championship at the National Tennis Center in New York. Kournikova won the match 6-1, 6-3 (AP Photo)

gled to five-set triumphs. Rafter's problems with 44th-ranked Arazi were the most stunning of all.

Arazi, whose 72-76 career mark includes a 21-24 hard-court result, lost his three prior U.S. Open matches and fell to Rafter in London in February in their only prior meeting.

Arazi's distracting tactics angered Rafter, especially complaints to umpire Norm Chryst in the last two sets.

"I needed something to get me fired up and it did," Rafter said. "I just didn't appreciate the way he moved around on my serve on a couple of big points. I didn't think that was cool. I didn't appreciate that."

"And then he went on about line calls. That got me fired up. I really wanted to beat him up then."

Rafter rose to 10-2 in five-set matches with his ninth such win in a row and fourth rally for victory after losing the first two sets.

"I don't know if its endurance. It's just determination. I don't want to lose," Rafter said. "Having that record I know what it takes and know how to do it. I never felt out of the match."

Arazi broke Rafter in the first game and served out for the set in 28 minutes, then broke him again in the fifth game of the second set and won that in 31 minutes without allowing Rafter a break point opportunity.

Rafter saved two break points in the seventh game of the third set and finally got his break chance in the next game. He made the most of it, hitting a backhand winner at the net then held serve to take set three.

"He had his chances early in the third set and he didn't take them," Rafter said. "All of a sudden I'm up 5-3 and I won the third set and I'm feeling pretty confident. From then on, he never got a look in."

Rafter saved a break point in the fourth game of the last set and held. Arazi slammed down his racket in the fifth game when a game-winning shot was called long, then slammed it down again two points later when his forehand sailed long to give Rafter the break and a 3-1 lead.

Rafter broke again in game six and ended the match with a drop volley after two hours and 35 minutes. He next faces Argentina's Hernan Gumy, who beat him last year on hardcourts in Key Biscayne. Sixth seed Rusedski saved two match points, one with help from a net cord, to sub-



Defending U.S. Open champion Patrick Rafter, of Australia, reacts after making a point during his first round match against the Hicham Arazi, of Morocco, in the U.S. Open Tennis Championship at the National Tennis Center in New York. Rafter won 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 (AP Photo)

have lost four or five matches like that this year," Bjorkman said. "It's definitely nice to get through in the fifth set."

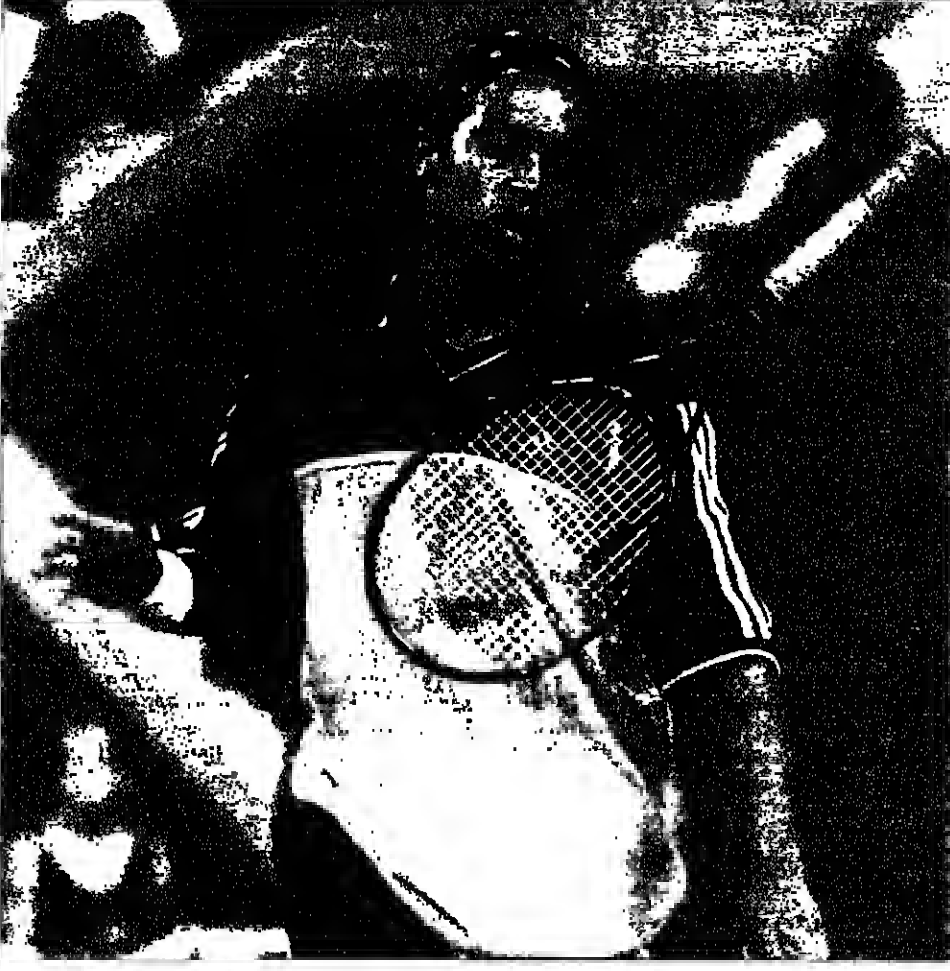
Wimbledon champion and third seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic beat American Jennifer Capriati 6-4, 6-3, but showed signs of the fades that had been a trademark before her breakthrough Grand Slam triumph.

"I was up 5-0 in the second set and I hadn't even put up a fight," Novotna said. "She started putting everything in. I maybe lost concentration for a moment but I got it back and that was it."

Fifth seed Venus Williams, last year's runner-up here, beat Germany's Elena Wagner 6-1, 6-0, in 49 minutes.

Five-time U.S. Open winner Steffi Graf, who won here in 1996 but missed last year with knee surgery, beat American Corina Morariu 6-2, 3-6, 6-1.

World No. 15 Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis play second-round matches Wednesday, when Chile's Marcelo Rios, Britain's Tim Henman and 1997 semi-finalist Michael Chang begin play.



Hicham Arazi of Morocco, tosses his racquet during his five-set match against defending U.S. Open champion Patrick Rafter during the U.S. Open in New York (AP Photo)

last year in his hometown of Casablanca.

"I should have won in three sets," Arazi said. "I

had two break points and I missed them. Then he started to play better and get more confident. Then it was hard to stop him."

On a day when 1997 U.S. Open runner-up Greg Rusedski of Britain and 1997 semi-finalist Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden strug-



Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic keeps her eyes on the ball as she hits a backhand return to Jennifer Capriati of Wesley Chapel, Fla., during their first round match of the U.S. Open Tennis Championship. Novotna won the match 6-4, 6-3 (AP Photo)

due South Africa's Wayne Ferreira 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 5-7, 7-6 (9/7), 6-4. Rusedski was on the brink of elimination in the fourth-set tie-breaker when a Ferreira backhand caught the net cord and saved him.

"If it hadn't touched the tape, the match was proba-

bly over," Rusedski said. "Fortunately for me, it stayed on the other side of the net. I was going for it but it would have been a very difficult shot."

Rusedski needed three hours and eight minutes to advance. Ferreira squandered a match point with a forehand into the net in the

10th game. "The second one was a bit unlucky," Ferreira said. "I hit it as well as I would have liked. I wouldn't say it slipped away. I played as well as I could. It was just an unfortunate one."

Bjorkman struggled past France's Cedric Pioline 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 6-7 (3/7), 6-2. "I

U.S. Open marks 25 years of prize money equality

NEW YORK (AFP) — This year marks the 25th anniversary of equal prize money for men and women at the U.S. Open, still the lone Grand Slam event which matches payouts for both sexes.

The \$14 million prize purse here gives female players the same \$700,000 top prize as the men even though they play best-of-three matches instead of best-of-five as the men do.

"I think it would be fair enough, or great for women's tennis, to have equal prize money at every Grand Slam," Wimbledon champion Jana Novotna said.

"But every tournament, every country, has a different view of this. I think the possibility of having equal prize

money at every Grand Slam is very near. I'm sure it's going to happen in the near future."

France's Mary Pierce agreed, saying, "We have so much depth and so many different players winning each week. I think we deserve equal prize money and one day hopefully we will get it."

• **Capriati finds encouragement even in defeat**

Former teen tennis star Jennifer Capriati, a 6-4, 6-3 loser to third seed Jana Novotna here Tuesday at the U.S. Open, took solace in the fun she is having now that she lacked in more successful times.

"You have to keep on going, try to have a posi-

tive attitude," she said. "I work on my game and you hope eventually things will click in."

Capriati reached the 1991 U.S. Open and Wimbledon semi-finals at age 15 and reached three Grand Slam quarter-finals in both 1992 and 1993 before personal problems and brushes with the law pushed her out of the game for two years.

• **Martin crucial to U.S. Davis Cup hopes**

With Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi saying no and Jim Courier injured, United States hopes in their Davis Cup semi-final tie with Italy later this month will fall upon Todd Martin.

U.S. coach Tom

Gullikson is awaiting an answer from 20th-ranked Michael Chang about his status for the matches, set for September 25-27 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Martin, ranked 27th, has agreed to play two singles matches and in doubles. If Chang turns down the offer, 42nd-rated Vince Spadea and No. 57 Jan-Michael Gambill are next on the U.S. wish list.

Agassi was unhappy U.S. officials scheduled the event far from Las Vegas, where he has a charity event scheduled on the middle night of the tie. Agassi wants players to have a greater say in site selections.

Paris keen to bid for 2008 Olympics

PARIS (AFP) — Paris looks set to bid for the right to host the 2008 Olympics, it was announced here on Tuesday.

The move has the backing of the French capital city's mayor Jean Tiberi and the Ile-de-France region's socialist president Jean-Paul Huchon.

"France last welcomed the Olympics in 1924. Today we hold all the cards to put on the greatest event in the world," said Huchon.

"France showed her organizational capabilities in putting on the Winter Olympics at Albertville and this year's World Cup," he added.

Paris will be up against at least four rival bidders with Toronto, Osaka, Istanbul and Buenos Aires already announcing their intention to stand as candidates.

Al-Hilal and Motema Pembe in CAF Cup spotlight

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Al-Hilal of Sudan are the team to watch in the CAF Cup quarter-finals this weekend after eliminating hot favourites Zamalek of Egypt.

The Khartoum club, runners-up in the 1987 and 1991 Champions Cup, entertain Daring Club Motema Pembe, who have confirmed their participation despite civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Al-Hilal, a dominant force in domestic football for decades, are unbeaten in their first attempt to lift a trophy named after the late Nigerian politician Moshood Abiola.

The East Africans defeated Patriotic Army of Rwanda at home and away before seeing off four-time African champions Zamalek through a late penalty converted by Mobammad Abou Chama.

Motema Pembe are equally experienced African campaigners who won the more prestigious Cup-winners Cup four years ago and supplied some of the national players who exceeded expectations by finishing third at the 1998 Nations Cup.

Another unbeaten challenger in a com-

petition for championship runners-up is Club Sportive Sfaxien of Tunisia, who entertain the tongue-twisting Domoina Soavina Astimondrano from Madagascar.

DSA were ousted at the same stage last year by Jasper United of Nigeria and history may repeat itself because Sfaxien are a formidable force at home with seven goals in two previous cup matches.

Elegant Tunisia World Cup midfielder Skander Souayah scored twice against Etoile Filante from Togo in the first round, then ripped Army of Ivory Coast apart with a hat-trick.

Coton Sport of Chad sprang a surprise by knocking out Jasper United with Francis Oumar scoring the decisive goal in N'Djamena and the reward is a visit from combative Zambians Nchanga Rangers.

Jeanne d'Arc of Senegal will hope to exploit the aerial weakness of World Cup goalkeeper Driss Benzekri when they tackle Moroccan second division club Renaissance Settat in West Africa.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Hisham Yanes Theatre
	TEL: 561-1111	TEL: 561-1112	TEL: 569-2338	TEL: 567-7420	TEL: 563-4793	TEL: 563-4793	TEL: 462-5155
	Robert Duvall & Tea Leoni... in DEEP IMPACT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Leonardo Di Caprio... in THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam... in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD '1' Jodi Foster... in CONTACT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 CONCORD '2' UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria GODZILLA Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria CITY OF ANGELS Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 Adel Imam... in AL ZA'EEM at 10:30 p.m.	WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW PLAY

Sports

Iraq exclud Arazi

Intern player

Ferrari

FOR RE

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Consists of 3 be

room, 3 full bathrooms, spa

marble floors, large living room

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Maurice Greene of the United States celebrates holding the Stars and Stripes after his victory in the Men's 100 metres at the International Track and Field Sports Festival (ISTAF) in Berlin. Greene won in 9.94 seconds. (AP Photo)

Iraq excluded from 12-team Arab Nations Cup

DOHA (AFP) — Iraq will be excluded from the seventh Arab Nations tournament which begins September 22 in Doha, the Secretary General of the Arab Football Federation Othman al-Saad said Wednesday.

"Iraq will not be invited to participate in the seventh Arab Cup. Iraqi clubs will be re-integrated once the reasons for their exclusion have definitively disappeared," he told AFP. Iraq has been banned from all Arab sporting events since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. It is unlikely to be allowed to participate until the U.N. embargo is lifted.

The embargo can only be lifted once the United Nations believes it no longer has weapons of mass destruction. Early in August, Iraq said it would suspend cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors.

In July last year, Iraqi athletes tried to participate in the Pan-Arab games in Beirut, but were refused visas under pressure from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Twelve countries will participate in the Arab Cup including Qatar, Libya, Syria, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Lebanon, Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

Jazireh, Orthodoxi contest Under-16 basketball tourney

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jazireh, Whidat, Ahli, and Orthodoxi Clubs will contest the Under-16 basketball championship finals starting Friday.

The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) announced the schedule for the final round of the event that will run up to Sept. 15. Two teams from Irbid, Hussein and Ibbin, also qualified to the finals.

Runner-up last year, Al Jazireh ended the first round with an unbeaten record after they scored a 52-49 win over titleholders Al Orthodoxi.

The competition grouped 7 teams from Amman in Group A and five teams from Irbid's in Group B.

The top four in the Amman group qualified to the final round leaving behind Raya, Abu Nusair and Al Jeel, while two teams qualified from the Irbid group leaving behind Gazet Hashem, Ashrafieh and Samma.

William Jones Basketball Tournament Jordan eliminated after 91-67 loss to South Korea

By Samir Janakat in Taiwan and Aileen Bannayan in Amman

JORDAN'S MEN'S basketball team Wednesday lost 91-67 to South Korea and failed to advance to the second round of the 21st International William Jones Basketball Tournament currently underway in Taiwan with 10 teams taking part.

The loss was Jordan's second after they succumbed 77-72 to Chinese Taipei and scored their only win 55-44 over the UAE.

Qualifying to the second round proved to be a difficult task for Jordan who missed four key Jazireh players who did not join the team following their management's decision to withdraw their national team players citing "bias against the club."

To ensure qualification to the second round Jordan had to win first place in Group 1 with tournament regulations stipulating that the host team qualifies to the semi-finals, regardless of its results in the preliminary round.

Therefore taking second place in case Taipei did not take first automatically drops Jordan out of contention because Taipei qualifies with the first placed team.

The Koreans had beaten the UAE

80-65 and had the day off before playing Jordan. They are tournament favourites alongside Japan and the Philippines.

Hilal Barakat scored 26 points for Jordan. The Koreans led 10-5, 24-15 and won the first half 44-34.

Kamal Helou who was hospitalised after abdominal pain, played his first match while it seems centres Ayman Du'eis and Ashraf Samara were not as effective as their teammates missing the lineup.

Scoring shows that most players were held to low averages: Hilal Barakat 26, Nasser Bassam and Ashraf Samara 10, Ayman Du'eis, Jan Sahleih 8, Kamal Helou, Faisal Nsour 2, and Yousef Zaghloul 1.

Jordan is playing in Group 1 alongside Chinese Taipei, UAE, Korea, Malaysia. Group 2 includes Japan, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and Costa Rica.

The top two teams in each group will play in the semifinals while the rest will play for 5th-10th places.

Jordan will next play Malaysia in the last match of the first round.

Onlookers contend had Jordan played with their original lineup they might have qualified to the second round. However, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) has

demanding an apology from Al Jazireh Club saying their untimely decision "dealt a heavy blow to the national team by pulling out on the night of their departure."

Although the Ministry of Culture and Youth convinced Al Jazireh Club to send their players to join the team JBF president Mudar Majdoun currently in Taiwan said "too late now to send the players."

The JBF had named two other players (one from Orthodoxi and another from Ahli clubs) to the 10-player lineup after Jazireh's four players declined play.

Jordan's team had a training camp in Athens and hosted the Iraqi national team in preparation for the week-long event.

The team includes veterans Hilal Barakat and Yousef Zaghloul, in addition to Nasser Bassam, Faisal Nsour, Fadi Saqqa, Mohammad Shamali, Ayman Du'eis and Ashraf Samara. Jan Sahleih and Kamal Hilou were recalled to the lineup after Ma'an Odeh, Husam Lutfi and Yousef Abu Bakr, Ala' Bilheisi of Al Jazireh withdrew.

International bans for English players joining Super League

LONDON (AFP) — Top English players taking part in an unauthorised European Super League will be banned from international football.

The threat came from Keith Wiseman, chairman of the English Football Association.

Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester United are among Europe's top clubs involved in talks with Media Partners, the company behind the controversial idea, and if the concept becomes reality stars like Michael Owen, David Beckham and Tony Adams would be unable to line up for England.

Wiseman said: "I have every reason to believe the clubs will reach accommodation with UEFA and the FA over the next couple of weeks."

"But I think that those seeking the

breakaway are talking about playing unsanctioned football entirely outside the jurisdiction of the whole football body."

"I think it logically follows from that they are not able to play inside it as well."

Yet Wiseman remains optimistic that the Super League proposals will never see the light of day.

"I think the structure of the game will survive and I think it is vital that it does. One only has to look at the problems a sport like rugby union has at the moment to realise how difficult it can be for everyone if there is no clear structure laid down," he said.

"I think the clubs concerned who are highly experienced with a long history will certainly feel that this is the right

way forward."

But there is a recognition that the demand for more matches between Europe's top clubs must be satisfied over the next few years.

Wiseman, speaking on BBC Radio 5, said: "I think there will be a European League almost certainly within the next few years, hopefully from under the structure of the game and with consultation taking place with the major leagues."

But he said it will take UEFA "two or three months" to come up with a viable alternative to fashion the shape of the European football scene into the next millennium.

Indonesian tennis star to quit

JAKARTA (AFP) —

Indonesia's top tennis star Yayuk Basuki, currently ranked World No. 37, plans to retire next year to start a family, her husband and coach was quoted as saying Wednesday.

"Yayuk will turn 28 in November. Time will roll on while we are longing for a baby," her husband Suharyadi told the Jakarta Post before accompanying Yayuk to the U.S. Open in New York.

Her last tournament will be the Australian Open in January of next year, he said, adding the hectic tournament schedule had so far ruled out any chance of her starting a family.

Yayuk, who achieved the highest ranking of her career, world number 19 in October last year, also has hopes of winning the Asian Games singles gold in December, the Post said.

McGwire slams 56th homer to match NL mark

MIAMI (AFP) — St. Louis slugger Mark McGwire matched the National League record here Tuesday by slamming his 56th home run of the season off Cuban pitcher Livian Hernandez of the Florida Marlins.

The blast leaves the Cardinals' first baseman five shy of matching the Major League Baseball mark of 61 set in 1961 by the late Roger Maris of the New York Yankees.

McGwire moved one homer ahead of Dominican star Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs, who has chased him all season and is also on pace to surpass the major league record.

The homer that allowed McGwire to match the 68-year-old NL mark set by former Cub back Wilson led off the seventh inning. McGwire belted a one-ball, one-strike pitch 450 feet over the center-field fence.

McGwire's second home run in three games put him on a pace to hit 66 homers

for the season. The Cardinals have 25 games to play.

It was McGwire's second homer of the season off Hernandez, who has surrendered 31 this season.

Australian-born media baron Rupert Murdoch's Fox network said Tuesday that if McGwire hits 60 homers by September 10, Fox will televise games the next three days in Houston nationwide.

The last of those games gives Murdoch a triumph of sorts over media rival Disney, which outbid Fox for National Hockey League broadcast rights for its ESPN sport network starting in 1999.

The Sunday game was pulled from ESPN by baseball officials when the network planned to show it an affiliated network with fewer viewers nationwide. Once the rights were pulled the potentially historic game was opened for Fox.

'Don't sell Shearer', Robson tells Gullit

LONDON (AFP) — Former England manager Bobby Robson has claimed that Ruud Gullit will have to sell players to finance his rebuilding at Newcastle — but he says £15 million striker Alan Shearer should stay at St James' Park.

"I wouldn't sell Alan Shearer. People are saying maybe he isn't quite the player he was before he had the injury. But he hasn't had quite the service to show people what he can do since the injury," said the ex-Barcelona coach in an interview on BBC

Radio 5 Tuesday. Robson believes Gullit will not have limitless funds at his disposal after predecessor Kenny Dalglish's summer spending spree.

"I wouldn't have thought so because I think the money will have dried up unless he sells," Robson said. "The youth policy should flourish, at some stage, after being disbanded by Keegan at one time, and resurrected by Dalglish."

"That is something Kenny has done very well, and it is a long-term policy. Hopefully

that will soon produce some of those fantastically-gifted youngsters from the Newcastle area."

Robson was approached by the Newcastle board to take over from Kevin Keegan in January 1997 before Dalglish's arrival.

He opted to stay at the Nou Camp while Dalglish was appointed, but the former Ipswich boss insisted that the Scotsman had done nothing wrong in his time on Tyneside.

Pembe light

relationship runners-up in the final of Tunisia, who were beaten by the Argentine team in the final.

ed at the same stage last year because Steven e force at home with o previous cup matches. World Cup midfielder scored twice against n Togo in the first Army of Ivory Coast

Chad sprang a surprise at Jasper United with coring the decisive goal and the reward is a visit to Zambia's Nchanga

of Senegal will hope to weakness of World Cup s Benzekri when they 1 second division club at in West Africa.

Fishan Yans Theatre TEL: 4625155

ITCH OUT FOR IE NEW PLAY

Ferrari — Coulthard case closed but no apology

PARIS (AFP) — Ferrari has maintained its theory that David Coulthard was to blame for the accident that forced Michael Schumacher to crash out of Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix.

But in a communiqué released Wednesday Ferrari said it now considered the incident "closed" and called for a return to a climate of normal sporting relations.

Schumacher looked certain of victory and of taking over the lead in the world championship when he ran into the back of Coulthard's McLaren in driving rain and poor visibility.

The former world champion accused Coulthard of deliberately causing the crash and he tried to confront the Scot in the pits only to be restrained by McLaren officials.

In Wednesday's statement Ferrari spelt out its version of the incident.

The Italian team claimed that for almost all of the 25th lap Coulthard had ignored warning flags and despite several chances had not allowed Schumacher to overtake.

It went on: "On several

occasions Michael Schumacher pulled out to show Coulthard he was behind him, before maintaining a correct distance between the two cars.

"Coulthard slowed down suddenly in the straight in an unexpected manner. Given reduced visibility the collision was inevitable despite Schumacher's efforts to avoid it.

"Ferrari will not be making any further statement on what happened and considers the incident closed.

"We now hope for a return to a climate of total sporting spirit."

Ferrari concluded by calling on supporters of the prancing horse to get behind the team for the next instalment of the Grand Prix circus at Monza on Sunday week.

Ferrari's statement falls a long way short of the call Monday for a Schumacher apology from Mercedes sports division chief Norbert Haug.

He said angry Ferrari fans had already thrown cans of beer at Coulthard in Belgium.

"A Schumacher apology

would calm things down. The situation could degenerate at Monza and we must avoid that," he warned.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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FACE YOUR JUDGMENT

East-West vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 10 3
♥ K 4
♦ A J 6 2
♣ K 9 5

WEST
♠ J 7 6
♥ J 10 9 8 3
♦ 5
♣ A Q 7 4

EAST
♠ 9 2
♥ A 7 2
♦ K Q 10 8 3
♣ J 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A 8 5 4
♥ Q 8 4
♦ K 7 6 4
♣ 10 8

The bidding:
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
Pass Pass 20 Pass 44
Pass Pass 30 Pass 44
Pass Pass 30 Pass 44

Opening lead: Five of ♣

Sometimes the opening lead will paint a picture of the whole hand. At other times you may have to back your card-playing ability and plan the play accordingly.

All we can say about West's weak two-heart bid is third seat is to each his own. North's double was textbook and since the queen of hearts was a doubtful value, South stretched to make an invitational jump to three spades, which North

converted to game.

West led the five of diamonds and, taken in conjunction with the defender's opening preempt, declarer decided it was probably a singleton. Declarer captured East's nine with the king, drew trumps in three rounds, ending in hand as East let go a heart, then led the ten of clubs, intending to play the king if West followed low.

The defender, however, rose with the ace of clubs and shifted to the jack of hearts, covered by the king and taken with the ace. The heart return was captured by the queen and a heart was ruffed in dummy. East could not afford to part with a diamond, so a club was discarded.

That allowed declarer to strip East's clubs by cashing the king then ruffing a club, reducing East to nothing but three diamonds. A diamond was ducked into the East hand, and the defender was forced to lead away from the queen into dummy's A 4 tenace.

As well as declarer played, the contract could have been defeated. After winning the ace of clubs West must continue with a club. East can then force declarer's last trump when in with the ace of hearts, and will be able to afford to let go a diamond in the end position, keeping a club as the eventual setting trick.

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Iran to keep its forces on Afghan border after games

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran stepped up political and military pressure on the Taliban Islamic militia controlling Afghanistan Wednesday, but newspapers here warned against intervention in its strife-torn neighbour.

Revolutionary Guards commander General Rahim Safavi said his forces will remain near the Afghan border even after the end of three days of military exercises there. More than 70,000 Revolutionary Guards from land and air forces and volunteers began Tuesday their largest-ever exercises in northeastern Iran amid mounting tension with the Taliban.

"The troops and equipment taking part in the Ashura-3 manoeuvres in the northeast of the country will not be withdrawn," said Safavi.

The general's comments came a day after the foreign ministry warned the Taliban to free a journalist and 10 diplomats it has allegedly seized in Afghanistan "or face a harsh response" from Iran.

"The Taliban and its backers are the main reason

behind the great manoeuvre," foreign ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said.

"If the Taliban choose not to play it straight on the fate of the diplomats, they will face a severe response from us," he said. "This manoeuvre is aimed at those who disregard international norms and seek to damage our national interests and security."

Iran has also called on the United Nations to send an international mission to look into the fate of the diplomats, who were allegedly seized by the militia after its takeover on August 8 of Mazar-i-Sharif, a city in northern Afghanistan previously controlled by Iranian-backed Afghan opposition forces.

Foreign Ministry official Mohsen Aminzadeh said Tehran wants representatives of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as Iran and Pakistan to go to Afghanistan.

Although Tehran has officially limited its demands to the release of the diplomats, it realises there is much

more at stake if the Islamist Taliban militia continues to rule over Afghanistan, where Shiite Iran has traditionally commanded great cultural and political influence.

In addition to other parts of Afghanistan, the militia controls three provinces bordering Iran, which used to be a hub of commercial activity between the two neighbours.

The presence of Taliban in Herat, Farah and Nimroz could turn the three provinces into a hotbed of chaos and insecurity, said Qods newspaper which is based in Khorasan province bordering Pakistan.

The militia could band together small groups of saboteurs and send them across the border for terrorist activities. Or they could send off drug caravans into Iran or allow Iranian anti-revolutionaries to use Afghanistan as a base for aggression against Iran," it warned.

The headline daily Jomhuri Islami went even further and warned Iran's other eastern neighbour, Pakistan, as well as Saudi Arabia and the United

States — countries which Iran has accused of inventing the militia with the aim of countering Iran's influence in the region.

"The manoeuvre is also a clear warning to conspirators who have entered action in the name of the Taliban, but that their ugly faces are evident behind the mask," it said.

Other newspapers sounded more cautious notes. "Iran should not get militarily involved in Afghanistan because the United States is waiting for such an opportunity," said Kayhan Hawaii weekly.

Qods newspaper warned against military intervention for different reasons.

"The militiamen are strenuous fighters with strong discipline. They fight like they have nothing to lose," it said. "Moreover, the war-torn and famine-stricken Afghanistan has no appeal to the world and the Taliban will like nothing more than to draw a country like Iran into a conflict."

"The best way to deal with a movement of bandits and outlaws is to completely ignore them, while we stay militarily ready," it said.



MATRESHKAS FOR SALE: Famous Russian matreshka dolls depict Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton as they are on a display in downtown Moscow, on Wednesday. President Clinton is in Russia on a second day of a three-day summit (AP photo)

Yeltsin, a loaf of heavy Russian bread

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton paid tribute to Boris Yeltsin's ability to bounce back under pressure — or at least that's what he seemed to be doing when he compared the Kremlin leader to a loaf of heavy Russian bread. Clinton was greeted at the start of his two-day Kremlin summit with a traditional Russian offering of bread and salt. Squeezing the solid black loaf with his hand, Clinton watched it spring quickly back into shape. "It's amazing. Just like you," he said, turning to the Russian president, who is sunk in his country's worst but by no means first crisis in years.

A menacing welcome message to pupils

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's tax police congratulated pupils on their first day back at school with a menacing message that their future would be ruined if their parents tried to hide their income from the authorities. "The Russian State Tax Service wishes you success in the new school year and financial success to your parents. We are certain that in the future you will become highly professional specialists and conscientious taxpayers," it said in a statement. "Every student and schoolchild must understand that, if his parents do not pay tax, this will deprive the child of his right to free education, in fact depriving him of his future," it said.

Liberal Party's electronic low blow

CANBERRA (R) — A computer hacker has struck the first low blow in Australia's election campaign by breaking into the ruling Liberal Party's official website, changing ministers' titles and adding links to hard-core sex sites. Internet surfers hoping for information on senior Liberals, Monday would have found the prime minister renamed "The Dishonourable John Howard, Prime Minister, Minister for Pain, Suffering and Inequity." A Liberal Party spokesman said the offending pages had been removed from the site.

To the cleaners or apologise

WINNIPEG (R) — A 230-pound woman who was denied a chance to strip at a Winnipeg area nightclub said she planned to take the establishment "to the cleaners" if it does not apologise. Sherry Van Rony, AKA Scarlet, told Reuters she was humiliated when the disc jockey at the club, at the Balmoral Motor Hotel, refused to allow her on stage on amateur night. "He said I'm overweight, I'm fat, and an embarrassment and disgrace to the hotel."

Conned into sex with a gigolo

HONG KONG (R) — A woman was conned into having sex with a gigolo three times, believing it would lift the curse plaguing her ex-boyfriend and could reunite them. Hong Kong newspapers said. The 46-year-old woman told the court a man claiming to be her ex-lover had told her over the telephone to sleep with a male prostitute so that his bad luck could be shifted to someone else, local newspapers said. She said she paid \$474 for the sex services and asked the gigolo, 31, to pass on another \$1,153 to her former boyfriend, newspapers said.

Iran to try German firms over chemical weapons sales to Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran said Wednesday it would try eight German companies accused of supplying chemical weapons to Iraq during their 1980-88 war and causing the deaths of thousands of people.

Fotovat Nassiri Savadkouhi, the director of the judiciary's public relations office, did not name the companies or say when their trial would start.

"Because of the large number of plaintiffs, it will take some time before we will investigate the cases," he told the official IRNA news agency, adding that around 600 victims of chemical attacks during the war had already filed suit.

"The chemical weapons material provided to Iraq by German companies martyred 10,000 people and disabled 50,000 others," Nassiri added. "As export-

ing chemical weapons to be used against humanity is against our Iranian laws and international conventions, these cases are worthy of investigation."

He said partially disabled victims had demanded compensation of 500,000 German marks (\$280,000) while those more seriously disabled and families of the "martyrs" had asked for one million marks (\$560,000).

The official said the judiciary had evidence in video tapes, such as "confessions" from Iraqi military commanders captured by Iran during the war, "showing these German companies collaborated with the Iraqi regime in the production of chemical weapons."

Other evidence included U.N. reports at the time and investigations launched by Iran's defence ministry as well as medical and clinical

reports, he said.

"U.N. experts have confirmed that chemical weapons manufactured in Germany have been used for these criminal acts," he said.

Iran raised the issue about two years ago during an investigation by a German court into the Islamic regime's alleged role in the 1992 murder of four Kurdish dissidents in a Berlin restaurant.

The judiciary then encouraged the veterans to come forward and sue a number of unidentified German firms, which are alleged to have supplied the Iraqi regime with such weapons.

Born has said that several German pharmaceutical companies helped Iraq build agricultural plants, but that the factories were later modified to produce chemical weapons.

Iran calls for U.N. probe into missing diplomats

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has called on the United Nations to send an international mission to look into the fate of diplomats it says are being held captive by the hardline Taliban militia in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Foreign Ministry official Mohsen Aminzadeh complained about the Taliban's "contradictory statements" about the fate of the Iranian nationals, and called for their release, saying Iran firmly believed they were alive.

He said Tehran wants representatives of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as Iran and Pakistan to go to Afghanistan, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Iran says 10 diplomats and journalists were seized by the militia after its takeover on August 8 of Mazar-i-Sharif, a city in northern Afghanistan which was previously controlled by Iranian-backed Afghan opposition forces.

"The Taliban who seized Mazar-i-Sharif and took them prisoner are responsible for their security," Aminzadeh said.

IRNA said Monday that the Taliban had admitted holding the diplomats and an IRNA correspondent near Kandahar, a Taliban stronghold in eastern Afghanistan.

But Taliban leader Muhammad Omar said in an interview with the BBC on the same day that the militia had no knowledge of the diplomats' whereabouts.

The Taliban Tuesday asked for U.N. mediation to ease tensions with Iraq, which launched unprecedented military exercises the same day on their common border.

PNA: Israel preventing Gazan students from study

GAZA (R) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Wednesday said Israel was preventing hundreds of Gaza students from travelling to universities in the West Bank.

"It is a completely inhumane action," said Imad Al Fallouji, the Palestinian telecommunications minister. He joined several dozen protesters at a rally urging Israel to honour the right of Palestinians to pursue their studies freely.

Israeli officials said permits were limited for "security reasons."

"We recognise that students want to study but we have to be sure they will not endanger us," an Israeli spokesman said.

The spokesman said Israel granted 100 Gazans permits to travel to the West Bank for studies last year but that only 40 had accepted them.

The Palestinian ministry of higher education said it was "extremely concerned" about the inability of Palestinian students living in Gaza to attend West Bank universities.

According to the ministry, 500 Gazans were denied permits to travel to the West Bank for studies in the coming academic year.

It said another 500 had remained illegally in the West Bank since the end of the last semester after Israel refused to grant them permits to return to Gaza.

The PNA has full or partial control over most of Gaza and 27 per cent of the West Bank under interim peace deals reached with Israel since 1993.

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bill must be endorsed by the committee and pass three more readings in the Knesset to become law, a process which could take months.

Weizman, whose largely ceremonial post gives him no power to set an election date, called publicly in June for an early vote over right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of Middle East peacemaking.

His call sparked a bitter row with Netanyahu, whose term runs until 2000. Weizman now has begun consulting politicians for their views on the prospects for a vote.

"I am doing what I think I have to do as president at an hour when the state finds itself in a crisis," Weizman told Israeli army radio.

"Whoever thinks the country isn't in a state of crisis let him come and tell me," Weizman, 74, spoke out as parliament's law committee met to discuss a bill to dissolve the 120-seat Knesset.

The draft legislation went to the committee after passing a preliminary vote in the full house on July 29 in what constituted a slap in the face for Netanyahu.

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Kuwait finds attack threat to U.S. Manila embassy

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti authorities have found a handwritten note aboard a commercial airliner warning of a September 4 attack against the U.S. embassy in the Philippines, an official spokesman said Wednesday.

"The note was in English and it was found aboard Emirates Flight 103 from Dubai to Kuwait on Tuesday," Interior Ministry spokesman Colonel Badr Al Saleh told Reuters.

"It was placed in a visible area in one of the bathrooms... Whoever placed it wanted the note found," he added.

Authorities questioned all the passengers and took handwriting samples from all the people on board the aircraft to compare them with the note.

"Samples from three male passengers were similar to the note and they were questioned," said the colonel. The fate of the

three, all from the Indian subcontinent, was not immediately known.

"We first thought there was a bomb threat, then some said it was related to narcotics," an aviation source said, describing the commotion around the Emirates aircraft and its passengers.

Saleh said the Emirates aircraft later left Kuwait after it was swept for bombs.

In Manila, the government alerted its top security body in response to the report although a government spokesman told Reuters: "This is the first time we have heard about this."

The note was the latest threat received in Kuwait against Western — mainly U.S. and British — interests since last month's twin bombings at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania which killed 263 people and injured more

than 5,000.

Diplomatic sources earlier said that some Western embassies in Kuwait, including the British mission, had in recent days received "unspecific threats."

Western embassies in the region "take all such threats seriously and continue to monitor security measures at embassies and for staff and citizens," one diplomat said. "We noted this latest note with interest," said one non-U.S. diplomat.

Security around Western interests in Kuwait and the region, including embassies and military installations, is traditionally tight but it was stepped up further in recent months in response to threats by Saudi dissident Osama Ben Laden, who in May declared a holy war against U.S. forces in his homeland.

Legacy of past high fertility is an unprecedented number of teenagers approaching their childbearing years, the agency said.

Global population is still increasing by more than 80 million people every year and will pass six billion in 1999. It will reach somewhere between 7.7 billion and 11.1 billion by 2050 — most likely 9.4 billion, according to U.N. projections.

"This means population may grow as much or more in the next 50 years than in the past 50 years," the report said, not-

ing that there were only 2.5 billion people in 1950.

The composition of the world's population is also changing.

Today's generation of young people is the biggest in history, Sadik said, with more than one billion young people between the ages of 15 and 24 entering their most fertile years.

"These young people will decide whether family size continues to decline," she said.

The slowdown in population growth has improved the lives of billions of peo-

ple in developing countries, where family size has fallen by half in the last 30 years, Sadik said.

"It helped to drive the Asian economic miracle," she said.

"It can help the staggering Asian economies to get back on their feet, and it can help create the conditions for economic recovery in Africa."

"These are possibilities, not predictions. Families are smaller today and people are better off because we took action. And action is still needed, perhaps more than ever before." The report

said that young people "need more and better education and information about sexuality, how to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and how to respect the rights of partners, so they can make responsible decisions" [including the option of delaying sexual activity]. While the younger generation is increasing, the number and proportion of adults over the age of 65 is increasing at an unprecedented rate, according to the Population Fund.

U.N. report: Population explosion isn't over

LONDON (AP) — The largest-ever generation of young people in every continent except Europe will ensure that the human race will continue to grow until at least the middle of the next century, the U.N. Population Fund said Wednesday.

And global population is likely "to go on growing slowly after that for perhaps 50 more years," Nafis Sadik, the fund's executive director, said at a news conference launching its annual report.

While falling fertility, smaller families and improved health care have slowed the annual rate of population growth, the

legacy of past high fertility is an unprecedented number of teenagers approaching their childbearing years, the agency said.

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Volume 23 Number 23

Israel gives up two demands in West Bank pullout talks

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"The Taliban and its backers are the main reason

Kurd leader says not to help Saddam

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"The Taliban and its backers are the main reason

Small intelligence: spy satellite

WASHINGTON (R) — A small satellite launched by the U.S. military on Wednesday will provide intelligence on the Middle East, a U.S. official said.

The satellite, which is the size of a small car, will be used to monitor the Middle East and provide intelligence on the region.

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